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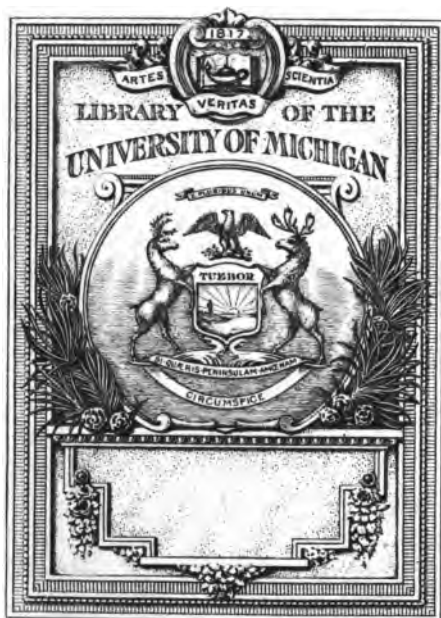
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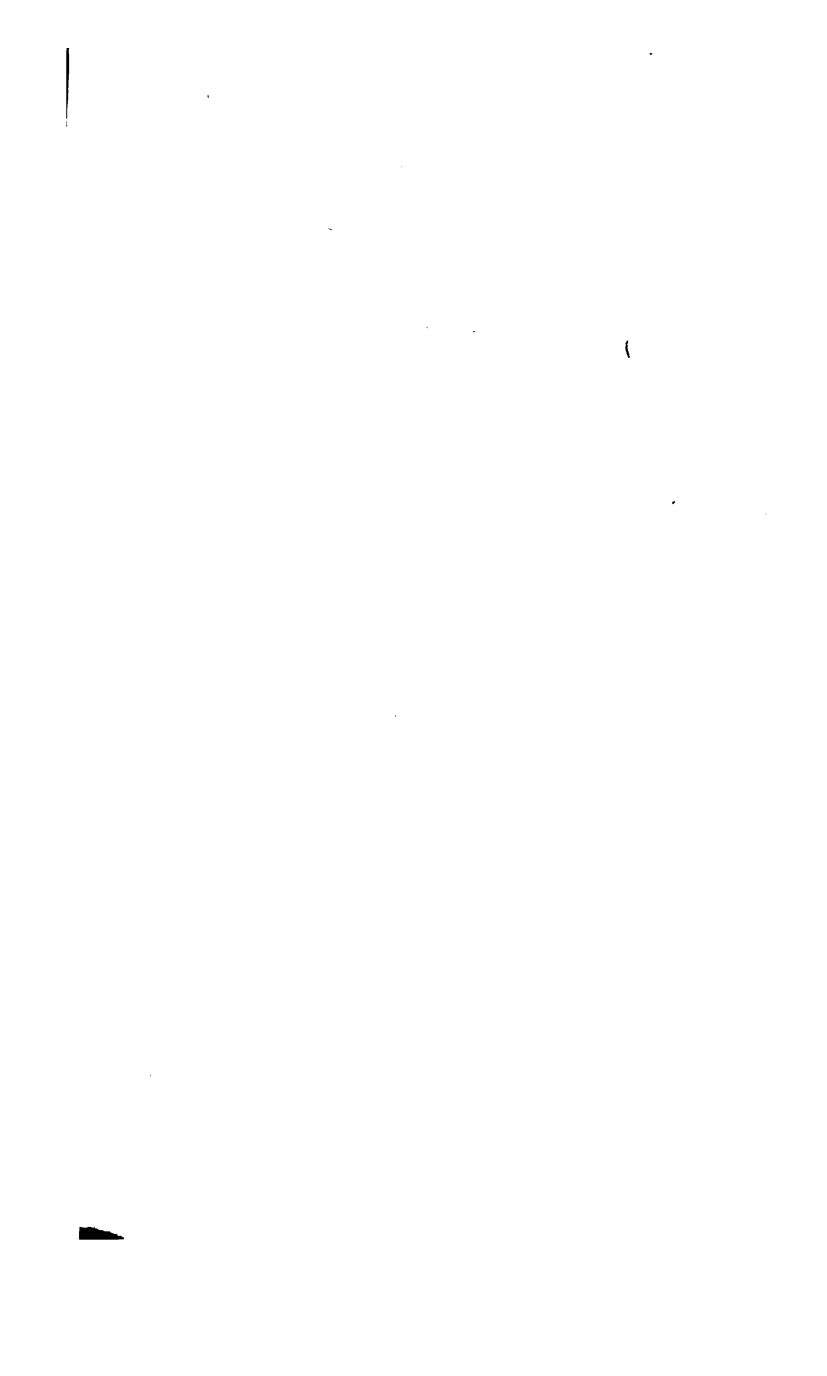
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THE
HISTORY
OF
OPHELIA.

PUBLISHED BY
THE AUTHOR OF DAVID SIMPLE.

A NEW EDITION.

VOL. I.

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PRINTED FOR T. VERNOR, IN BIRCHIN-LANE,
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ADVERTISEMENT.

I AM obliged to fortune for the papers I now offer to the public. I little imagined, when I bought an old bureau, that I was purchasing a work of fancy; for such I must suspect this little work to be, though it contains many incidents that bear so much the appearance of reality, that they might claim some share of our belief. I have not been able, by any enquiry, to find out the author, or the Lady to whom it was addressed; but I hope I shall not give offence to either of them by the publication; for if the story is fictitious, in all probability it must have been designed for the press, as it is unlikely any one should put their invention on so laborious a task, merely for their own amusement; and if the story is real, it is pity adventures so new and entertaining should be buried in oblivion; especially when they, and the reflections scattered throughout the book, are as well calculated for instruction as amusement.

The Author of DAVID SIMPLE.

INTRODUCTION.

YOUR Ladyship had little compassion either on yourself or me, when you desired me to write you an exact account of every circumstance of my life, and even of my thoughts, or you did not consider the long detail into which this lead me; a detail tedious for you to read, and difficult for me to write. You expressly desire to know the impressions I received from the first view of customs so unlike what I had ever seen, at a time when they are become so familiar to me that I almost forget many of them were ever otherwise. But your commands can meet with nothing but an implicit obedience from me; and when I mention the difficulties which may occur in the execution, it is not with a design of disputing them, but to excuse my ill performance of the task.

You say I must first account for the ignorance in which I was educated. This is obliging me to trouble your Ladyship with more adventures than my own; and is scarcely in order, since it makes me begin with the relation of circumstances with which I was not acquainted till a considerable time after the history of myself will end.

OPHELIA.

O P H E L I A.

C H A P. I.

MY father, whose name was Lenox, was the son of a Scotch Nobleman; his future fortune depended on his rise in the army, wherein he was only a Captain, when he married his Colonel's daughter: the Colonel was then in the last stage of a consumption, of which he expired in less than two months after his daughter's marriage; besides her, he left another daughter, and they equally shared four thousand pounds, which was his whole fortune. My father died in the third year of his marriage, leaving his wife with child of me: her

VOL. I.

B

grief

grief at the loss of her husband was so great, her friends feared it would prove fatal both to her and myself; but a little before the usual time, I entered the world alive, contrary to their expectations; but my mother expired before the end of her month.

My father's family were too far off London, the place of my birth, to think of so poor an orphan as myself; for my mother's fortune was considerably impaired, and of her side I had no near relation but my aunt, to whose care I naturally fell, and her humanity readily undertook the office. My aunt was about twenty-two years old; and was just then deserted by an officer with whom every preliminary of marriage was agreed, when her father's death put a stop to it, tho' he had a better fortune than is common to gentlemen of his profession; it then appeared that her charms had less influenced her lover than the hopes of obtaining preferment by her father's interest, for in a feigned obedience to a pretended command from an uncle, he broke off the match.

As my aunt had consented to marry in compliance to her father's inclination more than with her own, her indifference afforded her sufficient consolation; her lover's
behaviour

behaviour filled her with contempt, and independance gave her pleasure; but this was not long uninterrupted; she had beauty to excite love, and tho' her understanding was uncommonly good, it could not render her insensible to the charms of a young nobleman, who became enamoured of her. A woman's heart is never in so perilous a situation, as when vanity joins with a lover's persuasions in attacking it. My aunt at last grew so great a slave to her passion, that she consented to a private marriage, which her lover earnestly entreated as the only means of reconciling his impatient fondness with the fear of his father's anger.

Soon after their marriage, her husband, who was in the army, was stationed with his regiment in one of the American islands; this gave my aunt rather pleasure than concern; while she had his company, she could not regret what she left behind; and as he promised to own her as his wife when he had got so far out of the observation of his father, her only uneasiness was removed; for notwithstanding she flattered herself that when her marriage should be made public she should recover her blasted reputation, yet, tho' blinded with love to the utmost excess of insatuation, she was mortified at

the wounds which present secrecy made in her character. I was the partner of her voyage, and we arrived safe at our destined port.

In this place we lived till I was two years old; my aunt happy that the sole endeavour of her life, which was to please her husband, succeeded so well; for tho' his passion was visibly abated, yet still he was easy, good humoured, and affectionate; but one fatal day deprived her of this felicity. After receiving a packet from England, she perceived him thoughtful and uneasy; fearing some misfortune had befallen him, she pressed to know the occasion, but the more earnestly she urged it, the more gloomy he appeared. Two or three days passed in this manner, which were most afflictive to her, who only lived in his smiles. The secrecy he observed made her apprehend that the news particularly concerned herself, and judging of his heart by her own, imagined his great pain was how to impart it to her, and to support her under it; sensible that while he was well nothing could make her wretched, her desire of relieving his uneasiness was greater than her fear of any impending evil which her imagination could represent; and finding some invention was necessary, to come at the knowledge

knowledge of what he would not discover, she contrived to get at the letters he had last received from England, happy in the thoughts of putting an end to his concern, by shewing him how well she could support any misfortune while blessed with his tender regard.

In this temper of mind she opened the only letter he had not communicated to her; already prepared to acquaint him with the effects of a curiosity, which if ever it can be laudable, was so in this case; and to shew her affection by her courage and composure: but what was her surprize when she read the following words.

“ Do not imagine I am going to re-
“ proach the man whose perfidiousness I
“ must ever despise; that office I leave to
“ your own conscience, which must long,
“ without my awakening it, have perform-
“ ed this duty, tho’ its admonitions have
“ had no effect on him who can break
“ through all ties, divine and human. I
“ am above complaining of injuries I can
“ avenge, and only write to inform you
“ that I will acquaint your father with our
“ marriage, and your subsequent behaviour,
“ unless you immediately on the receipt of
“ this, declare it to him, and do me the
“ justice

“ justice for which I patiently waited, till
“ your neglect of me, and attachment to
“ the strumpet who now shares your bed,
“ changed all my love into rage and re-
“ sentment. Think not to intimidate me
“ with the effects of your father’s anger ;
“ his pride cannot inflict any thing so cruel
“ as your faithless ingratitude has made
“ me suffer. My character will be cleared,
“ and my injuries revenged, which are the
“ wishes nearest the heart of your much
“ injured wife.

Your Ladyship will easily believe that no distress could exceed what my aunt felt at the perusal of this fatal letter. It was long before her grief and astonishment would suffer her to go through the whole ; frequently was she obliged to leave off, and give vent to passions which for some time rendered her unable to proceed, whenever every line seemed armed with fresh daggers to pierce her soul. My uncle did not come home the whole day, and she employed the time of his absence, after the first burst of her grief was abated, in obtaining a command over herself, and a composure of behaviour which might conceal her knowledge of his treachery till she could get into her hands the answer to this letter.

ter, from whence she would more certainly judge of the truth of the affair. She was not long obliged to put this cruel force upon herself; a ship was to sail for England in two days, and the dispatches designed to go by it were to be sent the day before. My aunt had laid her plan, and it succeeded; but the gratification of her curiosity was to be always painful to her. With far different sentiments from those with which she opened the former letter, she now broke the seal of her husband's, though yet a ray of hope shone upon her afflicted mind, and told her that possibly he might not be so guilty as the other had painted him; but this small and flattering consolation was soon extinguished by reading the contents; which were as follows.

“ Can so much cruelty and beauty
 “ dwell together? and can the una-
 “ voidable consequences of an afflicting
 “ absence extinguish the remains of love
 “ in that once fond breast? my own ruin
 “ I would smile at, if it gave you plea-
 “ sure, did not your's depend upon it:
 “ will you blast all my endeavours towards
 “ raising you to a splendid fortune, by an
 “ untimely discovery? I shall soon leave
 “ this place; stay then my angel but till

B 4

“ my

“ my return to England, and I will ac-
“ knowledge you as the choice of my heart,
“ and my intreaties, united with the force
“ of your charms, shall make a haughty
“ father confess you were made to adorn
“ the rank which avarice might wish to
“ refuse you. That my sincerity in one
“ great point may prove the confidence
“ you may venture to have in my word,
“ I frankly confess I have a woman here,
“ but she is only the amusement of my
“ idle moments, while all my serious
“ hours are spent in lamenting your ab-
“ sence, and studying your advancement.
“ I cannot defend the inconstancy of my
“ actions, but my heart has never wa-
“ vered ; let youth, and this forced sepa-
“ ration from you, plead in my favour,
“ and incline you to forgive the man who
“ henceforward will live only for you, and
“ be ever your most tenderly affectionate
“ husband.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

MY aunt, now convinced of her misfortune, and spurred on by resentment, carried the two letters to the Governor, and threw herself into his protection. As soon as her husband became acquainted with all that had past, he endeavoured to persuade her that his letter was framed to pacify a desperate woman, for whom he never had but a childish fondness, which ended with all his other boyish fancies; but that to gain his present purpose, he was reduced to profess to her the sentiments he only retained for my aunt; he assured her, that at his return to England he would have their marriage ratified, and prove the other woman's claim was not legal; of the falshood of this, his letter was a sufficient testimony. My aunt, though she had at first suffered the imputation, could not bear the reality of vice; she absolutely refused to return to a house where virtue would no longer permit her to inhabit: she demanded her fortune and mine, which had been put into his hands; but only five hundred pounds remained unspent; that, by the Governor's authority and influence, he was obliged to pay her.

With this little sum my aunt determined to fly all human kind; deprived of the object of her affections, her peace, and reputation, what charms could the world have for her? She would relinquish all at once; and left the country, with no companion but myself, in search of a retreat far from the sight of human kind. We landed in the west; my aunt's romantic despair led her into *Wales*, where she found a small cottage situated on the side of a hill, commanding a beautiful, though a wild and mountainous prospect; at the foot of the hill was a delightful valley, to which, from our cottage, we were led by a fine grove of trees; on the side of the grove ran a clear brook, with several small cascades intermixed, descending into the valley, where it flowed in beautiful meanders, till it lost itself in a little wood. This place was too well suited to a love-sick despair not to excite my aunt's envy. She went to it, and found it inhabited by an old man, and two young women, his daughters; she offered him whatever price he would require, if he could be tempted to sell it. His daughters preferring the human species to the vegetable creation, had, for above a year, been endeavouring to prevail on the old man to leave a cottage, which

which was situated above twenty miles distant from any other house; their success continued doubtful, when my aunt's offer added weight to their persuasions. That one sound of a little more than the value, will tempt an old man to sell every remaining blessing. Avarice in the use of life absorbs all other passions; it is no wonder, therefore, if so strong a motive, united with the earnest endeavours of the two girls, procured my aunt the success she wished. The greatest part of our little pittance was laid out in the purchase of this cottage, a garden belonging to it, the adjacent grove, all the pasture land, with the goats it fed, and some poultry. My aunt, besides necessaries for herself and me, carried several books, materials for writing, and for various kinds of work. The impatience of the old man's daughters conquered the tediousness of age, and my aunt got into full possession of her little purchase, without more delay than was necessary for her to learn to milk her goats, and the other parts of rural business so new to her. When the former inhabitants left the place, and my aunt saw nothing about her but the animals to whom she was to give her care and attendance, and from whom she was to receive the grateful return
of

of support and sustenance, except myself, then as ignorant of evil, and almost as dumb as they, she began to enjoy greater composure of spirits; despair was softened into melancholy, and air, exercise, and all-healing time, by degrees alleviated her sorrows, and at length raised her to content and tranquillity. My aunt's first amusement was the adorning her cottage; it was her last, likewise, for she was continually ornamenting it during the whole time she stayed there; taking pleasure in beautifying it, though no one was likely to behold either her or her habitation. The care of my education soon shared her leisure, and in time became her principal employment. But desirous not to lessen my innocence and simplicity while she dispelled my ignorance, she gave me no account of the manners and customs of a people with whom she hoped I should never have any intercourse. The books she had brought into Wales were chiefly books of divinity, and such histories as served to enlarge and instruct the mind of the reader, without informing him of the existence of vices, which a pure imagination, untaught by observation and experience, cannot represent to itself. My aunt so artfully diversified my employments,

ments, that fond as I was of reading, I had not perused all her little library when I left this solitude, where I could for ever have contentedly remained. My aunt's tender affection, and reasonable indulgence, filled my heart and satisfied my desires. We made our nights very short, and yet our days were never too long. The vernal beauties of the finer seasons charmed our eyes, the tuneful choir of birds enchanted our ears, and both united to raise our contemplations to their creator ; we were grateful for general blessings, not less esteemed by us for being common to all mankind ; we wanted no partial favours ; we saw much to admire, much to rejoice in, and nothing to envy.

C H A P. III.

IN this happy tranquillity I lived with my aunt, till one evening that we were just returned from walking by our little brook, and admiring the reflection of the moon, then at the full, and which shining on the water, a new Heaven in its fair bosom shew'd. Before we entered the house we were greatly astonished to hear a human voice ; a sound so strange to us, that

that we could not sufficiently recover our surprize to return an answer to the call; nor was our wonder abated at seeing ourselves accosted by a young gentleman whose cloaths outshone the gentle lustre of the moon, at least to eyes so unaccustomed as mine to any but the plainest dress. At first surprize had fixed me to the ground, but as I began to recover from the sudden impression, the first effect of my abated fear was to fly from this strange phantom, for such it appeared to me. I was directing my trembling steps to the house, when the stranger, with accents of the greatest earnestness and distress, cried out, stay! beauteous angel, stay! Whether the harmony of his voice, or the sweetness of the flattering appellation was most powerful I know not, but my feet slackened their pace, and looking round, I saw him bending towards me in the most suppliant posture, with gestures which I thought almost profane to address to a mortal being. Yet was the humility not displeasing. The moon shone full upon him, and was bright enough to shew me a face, which, notwithstanding female vanity, the only innate principle for which I contend, seemed to me far more beautiful than my own; a transcendancy that before I could
not

not conceive, having had no opportunity of comparing myself with any thing but my aunt's faded charms, worn with age, and blasted by misfortunes. Nor was my admiration confined to the stranger's countenance; in his person appeared that elegant proportion, that delicacy, blended with dignity, of which the mind can judge without rule or comparison. It is not surprizing that, as I had never seen any of my own species but my aunt, and a few times an old man who had been at our house on occasions necessary to our rural life, I should be struck with beauty which I have not seen equalled since I lived in the midst of mankind, and which had no bad foil in the harsh grotesque features of a Swiss attendant, who at that time accompanied him. My aunt, with a politeness ill agreeing with our rural appearance, addressed the stranger, who informed us, that

“ having made a visit to an acquaintance
“ on the borders of Wales, the face of the
“ country had so charmed him, by its
“ wild and natural beauties, that he had
“ been tempted to spend a little time in
“ viewing more of it; accordingly he left
“ his friend's house two days before, and
“ travelled where his fancy led him, with-
“ out having been under any difficulty for
“ necessary

“ necessary accommodations till then.
“ Fine woods and winding rivers had attracted him to some distance from the
“ road, and he had pursued the way
“ those beauties led him, without having
“ seen even an inhabited hut since morning; but had not till then given up the
“ expectation; when finding that in an
“ extensive prospect his eye could discover
“ no house but ours, he was induced to
“ apply to our hospitality for a little refreshment, not imagining that by doing
“ so he should behold charms that not
“ only surpassed all the rural beauties which
“ had captivated his fancy, but the most
“ admirable part of the creation; such as
“ must for ever make him forget that
“ Wales, or even the world, contained any
“ other treasure.”

Flattery was so new to me, that I did not understand myself to be the treasure he meant, though his eyes, which spoke nature's language, an universal dialect wherein even the savage can want no instruction, told his admiration in terms more intelligible to simple nature's scholar; but my aunt's care informed me of the full extent of his expressions; no uncommon effect of prudery, which often discovers more than the most consummate assurance. With
a look

a look of indignation; "fye, Sir, said she, "can you expect hospitality from us, "when you, with more than savage cruelty, endeavour to pervert with pernicious flattery, a mind hitherto educated "in purity and truth?"

This rebuke, and the stranger's defence of himself, which greatly increased the crime laid to his charge, for it was only begging pardon for the sudden effect made on his senses by the most striking beauty he had ever beheld, left me no longer in doubt for the application of his compliment: but I could not find in myself any sparks of my aunt's resentment; her's, however, was pacified by the gentleman's assurances of restraining his sentiments within the bounds of silence; and after many intreaties, in which I at last joined, (surprized to find moroseness and want of benevolence in a temper which I before thought all gentleness, love, and compassion) she was prevailed upon to admit the stranger into our cottage.

If he was so susceptible of wonder, or surprized at the sight of a pretty woman, it is not extraordinary that he should be very sincerely astonished at entering a little hovel, and finding in it neat rooms, furnished with the greatest elegance,

gance, and so much in character that even the embroidery of the chairs, curtains, bed, &c. was in a rural taste; and every part of the house ornamented with things for which we had been indebted purely to nature, and so peculiarly disposed as to excel all the efforts of art; nor had the outside of the house, the garden, and the rest of our little territory been neglected. The stranger, to whom, I think, I must, to avoid circumlocution, already give his title, and call him Lord Dorchester, though I knew it not at that time, was amazed beyond description, on entering the house. He began by an exclamation which made my aunt smile, and I found she did not think compliments so dangerous when applied to herself, as when her darling niece was the subject of them. . . But I must do her the justice to own, that the more places I have seen which the art of man has been exhausted to adorn, the more I am convinced that on this subject no expressions could exceed what her ingenuity justly deserved. Salads, milk, and eggs, were all our house afforded; these we set before our guest with a cleanliness and simplicity, the novelty of which delighted him; and with truth he declared that the whiteness of our wooden bowls and platters, scarcely

scarcely excelled by the linen they were upon, were in his opinion far preferable to silver or china. The same compliment he made to the freshness and sweetness of our fare, of which, though he might well be supposed hungry, we could not for a long time get him to taste, his attention was so entirely engrossed by all the wonders (as he expressed it) around him. He asked us some questions concerning our way of life; I was so struck with the novelty of the adventure, and so abashed with the presence of a stranger, and his continual gazing at me, that I was quite dumb; but my aunt freely answered him; and as our actions were too innocent to require concealment, he received full satisfaction. He made my aunt some compliments on her good sense and reason; declared the admiration her way of life had excited in him; and added with a smile, that if she would excuse him, he must just observe that she had abated his astonishment at finding such a heavenly form in that place, since he now understood her niece to be no more than one might expect; for, from angelic food, an angelic life, angelic innocence, and the wise and virtuous instructions of a parent of more than human understanding and conduct, how could

could less excellence be expected. He found that the uniting my aunt in his compliment would not excuse it; she knit her brow, and awed him with silence on that subject; but his eyes became so much more eloquent for the restraint laid on his tongue, that my confusion was inexpressible.

His curiosity was so happily tempered with politeness, that though he at last enquired how a person, whose qualifications shewed her to have been bred where every improvement of taste and understanding was to be acquired, first came fixed in such a solitude, so little impertinence appeared in the request, that my aunt, though she concealed the circumstances, gave him such a general account as served at least to quiet his curiosity. The greatest part of the night was spent in conversation; but at length my aunt, in compassion for the fatigue her guest had undergone, offered him our bed, the only one our cottage contained; but he insisted on our keeping it, and assuring us he could sufficiently repose himself on a couch that stood in the room where we then were, we left him to his rest.

C H A P. IV.

AFTER a short sleep, rising to our morning's employments, we found Lord Dorchester up before us, and employed in examining our library.

My Aunt expressed her concern at not having had sufficient conveniencies to afford his Lordship the necessary refreshment the night required; he assured her, "that was not the reason of her finding him waking, but that his spirits were so agitated with surprize and pleasure, arising from so extraordinary an adventure, as he esteemed the finding two persons whom his imagination continually represented as the divinities presiding over that charming country, that he had not been able to compose himself to rest:" adding that, "at the dawn of day, he arose to admire new wonders, which he must call so valuable a collection of books, whose merit made up for the smallness of their number, but more still the extracts from, and the observations upon them, which he imagined were done by me, from some little corrections in another fine hand which seemed to have been the model
of

“ of that wherein those transcripts and
“ observations were written.” The confusion this gave me severely punished my negligence in not having removed my miserable performances into another room. He soon made us understand by some polite compliments, that he had examined into all the papers, among which were many short essays on subjects my aunt had given me as exercises for my understanding, and several things of that sort which had served as a profitable employment, or as an amusement for our leisure hours.

His Lordship desired we would permit him to accompany us in the business which called for our attendance at that time. He went with us to our goats, our poultry, and through all our domestick cares. We then shewed him our garden, grove, &c. The elegance and order with which they were disposed, charmed him as much as the ingenuity that adorned them. The seats, the bowers, the rustick ornaments on the outside of the house, excited his admiration. At our return, he begged leave to stay with us till the next day, that he might have time “ to come a
“ little to his senses, for that he could
“ scarcely

“ scarcely believe all he had seen was
“ any thing but enchantment.”

My aunt had preserved so much of her resentment against the sex, and was so greatly alarmed at every hour I spent with one so amiable, that he could obtain no other permission than what he might gather from her silence. He put his own construction upon it, and then acted accordingly. My bashfulness wearing off by degrees, during the course of that day, I got courage to join in the conversation, and must confess I never thought the gift of speech, peculiarly bestowed on man, so great a blessing. My aunt, notwithstanding all her prejudices, I could see was pleased with our guest; his justness of thought, his elegance of expression, and the liveliness of his imagination, afforded us the highest entertainment. I have since been told, that my aunt would not suffer him to stay, but on condition that he should say nothing which might tend to lessen my ignorant simplicity, having taken an opportunity upon my leaving the room of acquainting him with her reasons for bringing me up in a happy ignorance of evil, which she hoped would never be dispelled. He then represented to her
the

the impossibility of my “ continuing my
“ whole life in that solitude, unless, con-
“ trary to the course of nature, I should
“ die before her; urged the cruelty of
“ secluding me from the pleasures I might
“ enjoy, and from the universal adora-
“ tion to which my person,” he was
pleased to say, “ intitled me, and to
“ strengthen his arguments, offered my
“ aunt any assistance of fortune, if
“ want of it had been her inducement
“ for flying from mankind.” She replied,
“ that was a generosity for which such
“ simplicity as mine might thank him,
“ but a person as well acquainted with the
“ world as herself, would doubt what
“ gratitude it deserved, but must refuse
“ it without hesitation.” Of this con-
versation I could not then have the least
suspicion, and so well did he obey the
instructions he had received, that I got
no knowledge, though much amusement,
by his stay with us. At night he again
took up with his couch; and if the de-
jection which appeared in his countenance
the next day might be believed, he had
not enjoyed more rest on it than the
night before; but finding it improper to
intrude himself any longer upon us,
about noon he took his leave, which he
often

often attempted before he could execute; and at last he could not do it without the greatest appearance of force on his inclinations. At parting, he laid aside his fear of my aunt's anger, and took so tender a farewell of me, mixing such very high flattery with his affectionate expressions, as then rendered me incapable of returning any answer, and now prevents my repeating them. While he regretted being obliged to bid me eternally adieu, a few tears stole down his face, and melted me so much that I was almost ready to accompany them with some of mine. He looked back till distance deprived us of each other's sight. I grew pensive; and I remember my aunt seemed disturbed at it. She endeavoured to amuse my thoughts, but they were entirely engrossed by the stranger: whatever subject she began, the conversation was immediately turned to him. I own my former amusements became less pleasing to me; I found less attention to what I read, less joy in the vernal beauties which before delighted me, and innocently told my aunt the change I felt; who with a melancholy, though a gentle forgiving air, said, "she perceived her company was not so sufficient to my happiness as mine was to her's."

This kind reproach had the designed effect; it first rendered me silent on the subject, and making me think myself ungrateful in not returning an equal affection, I took my heart so severely to task, that I conquered, or thought I had conquered, this sudden attachment, and was restored to my tranquillity, enjoying all the charms of our solitude, in less than two months after Lord Dorchester's departure. This victory was useless, for my destiny had decreed that I should not abide there much longer.

C H A P. V.

ON the evening of a very hot day, I accompanied my aunt to a seat we had placed under the spreading shade of a venerable oak. The freshness of the air made us unwilling to leave it, and with no other light than what the twinkling stars afforded us, we sat singing of hymns, inspired by true gratitude for the blessings we enjoyed, when suddenly we were surprized with the sound of the trampling of horses; my aunt immediately shrieked out, caught my hand, and we were running with our utmost

utmost speed to our cottage, when I felt some one seize me, but it was too dark to distinguish the face of the person. My poor aunt kept fast hold on me; begged, entreated, and used every argument to prevail on him to let me go; we both kneeled to him, she beseeching his compassion, I joining in the suppliant posture; but more frightened with the terror in which I saw her, than with any danger I could apprehend, I had not power to speak; and was greatly surprized to hear her address him as our late guest, reproaching him with cruelty, ingratitude, and the greatest breach of hospitality, in thus returning the reception we had given him. I could not imagine how she could suspect him of an action that deserved such imputations; I thought it impossible he should be guilty of any bad thing, or that he who seemed to have conceived a greater affection for me than I could account for in so short a time, should wish to do me so irreparable an injury as separating me from my beloved and tender aunt, which I now found was the intention of the person who held me. She has since said that she perceived Lord Dorchester's passion for me to be so violent, that from the time of his departure she had been apprehensive of some ill effects from

it, and had never got a dread off her spirits; this made her immediately attribute the present attempt to him. But how could I, ignorant of the force of an unruly passion, suspect it? My aunt's resistance and mine no longer availed than till another person came up, who forced her to let me go, and, notwithstanding the exclamations of fear and distress which we both uttered, one of them took me in his arms; and setting me before him on horseback; rode away as fast as the intricacy of the way would permit him.

At first my terror rendered me almost senseless; I was frightened without knowing what I feared. I had indeed read of murders, but then ambition had been the inducement: what had I to tempt any one to rob me of my life? such wickedness could not be perpetrated without temptation or resentment. My life had injured no one, nor could my death be of any benefit to them; therefore I could not apprehend being murdered; but my ignorance of the nature of the dangers which threatened me gave no ease to my mind. A panic is stronger than a reasonable fear, and such mine was. After a time, grief succeeded to terror, and then I found some relief from tears. The misfortune of being
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ing separated from my beloved aunt, of losing the pleasures of her sweet indulgence and tender affection, was more than my heart had fortitude to support; and how was my affliction embittered, when I reflected on what she would suffer, deprived of her only companion, the object of her love and care; and anxious for the fate of all that was dear to her on earth! I wept her sorrow, I wept my own unhappy fate, in an excess so suitable to the occasion, that when day-light dispelled a little of the terrors of my situation, I was scarcely able to receive any advantage from it, being almost blinded with my tears. And it was more from the sound of a voice once so pleasing to me, than from any distinction my eyes could make, that I perceived I was accosted by Lord Dorchester, who addressed me with every expression of kindness and humility. The harsh notes of a croaking raven could not have been so grating to my ears as the voice I before thought so harmonious.

I could not but greatly have resented the injury done me, had it been by a perfect stranger; but my anger was much encreased when I found the injurer was one who had worn the mask of a peculiar regard. Hypocrisy was a crime of which I had

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never

never heard ; this was my first acquaintance with deceit ; and hatred sprung up with it.

I was angry with myself for having ever conceived a favourable impression of such a wretch ; and although this was, I believe, the first passion I had ever been in, it had none of the weakness of a new emotion. A person bred up in the continual exercise of her rage could not have expressed herself more strongly than I did to his Lordship, who endeavoured to soothe and pacify me ; and he so far succeeded, that I lost all utterance from the violence of my tears : he seemed to feel my sorrow, and wept with me. I then hoped compassion had melted him, and seized the favourable moment (as I thought it) to prevail on him to restore me to my afflicted aunt : it appeared to me impossible that an heart where pity had ever dwelt could refuse my request ; the ardent desire of obtaining it, the excess of my sorrow and despair, made me eloquent ; I beseeched, as a favour, what without the highest cruelty and injustice could not be denied me, and all the resentment of an injured person was lost in the humility of the afflicted suppliant.

I painted

I painted my wretchedness in such strong colours, that I at last became dumb with horror at the melancholy prospect; but yet so little did it avail, that I could not obtain one flattering hope of being carried back. I could perceive he was extremely agitated, which made me continue my intreaties as long as I was able; but when I stopped, I learnt the little success they had, by his crying out, “ oh! my
“ fairest, my lovely Ophelia! cease to distress the fondest heart that ever was
“ contained in a human breast, by asking
“ what it must refuse you: with what
“ joy could I comply with any request
“ that did not deprive me of you! ask my
“ fortune, my life, any thing but yourself, and it shall be your’s. Could I have
“ supported life without you, I would
“ have forborn this violence. Your happiness shall be all my care, believe me
“ my dearest angel; though your presence is more necessary to my existence
“ than the light of the sun, yet would
“ I restore you to your aunt, was I not
“ sure that in a little time you would
“ confess yourself happier with me than
“ in the dull solitude from whence I have
“ brought you, to introduce you into a
C 4 “ variety

“ variety of lively and enchanting pleasures.”

“ I know not your pleasures, nor your customs,” answered I ; “ in my little cottage were all my desires gratified ; and can I think that man wishes me happy who tears me from every joy on earth. My dear aunt’s tender goodness and faithful friendship is a blessing nothing can equal. You would persuade me that you have some affection for me ; are the greatest injuries proofs of love ? does your affection lead you to afflict the object of it ? when you restore me to my cottage, I will believe I am not hateful to you ; this is the only way you can convince me. If my heart was capable of feeling hatred, I could not wish to torment the object of it ; nay, even you, whom I detest, I would sooner defend from pain than inflict it, had I the power over you which you have unjustly assumed over me : can you be so different then, as to wish me miserable, who never offended you ? who would not if I could.”

My tears would not suffer me to proceed, nor could Lord Dorchester’s kindest assurances and most ardent vows afford me

me the least consolation. After travelling half the day in this uneasy manner, we came to a beaten road, where there stood a small hut, as I thought, with two horses fastened to it; into this they put me. I had observed that the outside was fine and gay; very different from the little hovels I had seen: the inside likewise was neat and pretty, but seemed better calculated for beauty than convenience; for there was but just room for us to sit. I did not envy the owner his gaudy habitation, which I imagined must be very uncomfortable to live in; when to my great amazement I felt it move very swiftly. My fright would have proved very dangerous to me, had not Lord Dorchester's care prevented the effects of it; for the excess of my surprise and fear made me attempt to get out at the window, but his lordship held me fast, till he reasoned me into composure on that account, explaining the structure and design of such vehicles, as well as their safety. Though my body had suffered too much from the agitation of my mind to feel ease from any thing at that time, yet I soon after grew perfectly well reconciled to this most agreeable invention of the luxurious: I did

not immediately proceed far in it; for at night my Lord found me so much disordered, that he declared he would remain at the cottage, where, for want of better accommodation, we were obliged to stop, till I should be more able to prosecute my journey.

C H A P. VI.

THE day after our arrival at the cottage, instead of being refreshed, I appeared in a high fever, which in a few days increased to so great a degree, as made me expect from the quiet hand of Death a release from all my troubles. I was too unhappy to be afflicted at this expectation. Grief for what I had lost, and fear for what might ensue, fortified my mind. Can the wretched behold the grave with terror? that eternal sleep from which no worldly troubles can awaken them? that secure asylum from the injuries of man, and the frailty of their own nature? In this pleasing light, I then beheld it. Lord Dorchester was differently affected. He seemed to suffer from anxiety more than I did from sickness.

He

He was scarcely out of my chamber, and attended me with a watchful care, a tender attention, which appeared far above the honest good natured humanity of the poor cottager's wife. If I was worse than common, it was more visible in his countenance than in mine. One would have thought his existence depended on my life. The least amendment in me raised him from a despair, which again returned when the favourable symptoms vanished. Conscious that the seat of my distemper was in my mind, he endeavoured to calm my spirits, by promising that "if after a year's stay in England I still preferred my little solitude, he would restore me to the aunt whose loss I lamented." I thought myself so certain of a speedy release from a world with which my first affliction had disgusted me, as is common in the petulant impatience of youth yet unbroken by the reverses of fortune, that I believed this consolation came too late; and relieved from my fears by my expectation of an approaching end, I grew more easy, and had leisure to attend to the apparent signs of Lord Dorchester's tender anxiety. Tho' I could not comprehend how a strong affection should grow in so short a time, nor how such cruel effects could

could be produced by love, yet I began to feel some compassion for his affliction ; I saw him suffer so much, that I almost forgot he had been the occasion of my distress. Even my resentment was weakened by sickness. My most turbulent passions seemed buried in the grave before me. His sorrow, his passionate lamentations, his tender agonies and bitter remorse, melted a heart softened by the general decay of nature ; and believing my own pains near their end, I pitied his, which appeared then more acute, and likely to be more lasting. Every look, every word and action expressed his love in such legible characters, that I sometimes was ready to believe his professions, though I thought his affection must be of a strange contradictory nature. But if all his care and tenderness only proceeded from a return to humanity, of which his first action declared him at that time void, I could not help owning to myself I never before saw that virtue appear so very amiable. A fortnight passed before my fever began to abate, and it left me so very weak and low, that I thought myself nearest death when I really was out of all danger of dying. Above a month more was spent in restoring me to sufficient health and spirits to proceed on my journey by gentle

gentle stages. The natural strength of my spirits and nerves, which had then never felt any of the disorders that, in a degree, afflict almost every constitution in this country, and by which even mine has suffered since, returning, I bid adieu to my native simplicity of life. These natural spirits, with the turn of thoughts my sickness had given, as I have already mentioned, which had rendered me liable to receive tender impressions from his Lordship's affectionate attentions, together with his promise of suffering me to return to my cottage in a stated time, (for I could not doubt but I should chuse to do so) greatly abated my affliction, and I became capable of conversing with tolerable ease, though my heart was still oppressed with sorrow.

The evening of the day we left the cottage was come, before we saw any house of more noble structure than that which had last harboured us. The first we drove by, appeared to me a most stupendous building, though I have since learnt it was but a moderate sized house; and before night we stopped at what I thought a sumptuous palace. The hospitality of the inhabitants charmed me; they received us

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at their door, and pleasure sat on their countenances; all their words expressed a desire of accommodating us agreeably; I could even have found fault with the impetuosity of their good will, had not the motive to which I attributed it excused, I might almost say endeared, the inconveniencies it occasioned. The size and colour of the master and mistress of the house made me tremble for the slenderness of my waist, and fairness of my skin, in a country which seemed so great an enemy to the shape and complexion; but before the end of my journey my vanity was pacified, by observing that this extraordinary bulk, and redness of face, was almost peculiar to persons in their way of life.

I admired no part of our host's obliging behaviour more than their leaving us as soon as we were seated. I felt myself too fatigued to make all the returns my gratitude suggested, and I imagined they left me to seek some repose from silence. Supper was soon after brought in, and the master of the house followed, inquiring if we were served as we chose. I got up and brought him a chair, making room for him to sit down, and was shocked to see Lord Dorchester endeavouring to hide a smile,

smile, but giving the old gentleman no encouragement to make use of the seat I had placed for him; who, with a humility which hurt me, insisted on waiting behind my chair. This made me extremely uneasy, and I was astonished that his Lordship would suffer it.

When our host and supper were both withdrawn, I could not forbear expressing my approbation of his indefatigable hospitality, in sacrificing the ease and quiet of his life to the convenience of others, for I found we were not the only guests; and touched a little on the outward civility I thought due to him, whose kind reception entitled him to our esteem and gratitude. I began to find my apprehensions a little relieved by seeing there was so much benevolence to be found in a people among whom I had been so forcibly introduced. Lord Dorchester soon put an end to this pleasing imagination, by telling me "the reception I admired was the effect of their covetousness, not their generosity; and that their hospitality was a mere trade, by which they gained a subsistence; and practised by none in this country from other motives." I at first exclaimed against the general brutality;

talities; but recollecting that my first, and hitherto only misfortune in life, had been brought upon me by our not acting with the same churlishness, I told my Lord
“ I was less surprized, since I heard this,
“ that he had not learnt how to make a
“ proper return to a virtue so unknown to
“ him as hospitality, and which I supposed
“ had been banished the kingdom, from
“ some such ill consequences arising from
“ it as I had experienced.”

Fatigue, and the relief my spirits began to feel from the dissipation of my mind by all the novelty which surrounded me, made me inclinable to rest pretty early. Lord Dorchester, studious to oblige me, and endeavouring to prevent my uttering a wish by his great readiness to comply with it before I had time to express it but by my eyes, took leave of me, saying, that “ though he could converse with and
“ look on me for ever, yet he had rather
“ put a force on his inclinations than lay
“ any restraint on mine.” And after asking my permission, kissed my hand with more pleasure than I imagined it could bestow. Because he was pleased, I was ashamed; I know no other reason for my blushes, for it before appeared to me too
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insignificant to raise any. He then bid me a good night, and left me to take some rest, as I shall your Ladyship, bidding you adieu for a little time.

C H A P. VII.

THOUGH the relation of a journey is often more tedious than the journey itself, yet I will suppose your Ladyship's mental fatigue to have been of no longer duration than my bodily weariness, and that after a short rest you are ready to proceed with me on my journey. My aunt had accustomed me to great simplicity of dress; I suppose foreseeing the inconvenience she should find in supplying us with that train of variety used by people who live in the world. I had never worn any thing round my waist but thin waistcoats, nor any cap in the day time; my hair was extremely long, and curled naturally, for I knew no art, and fell in ringlets about my neck, reaching behind below the middle of my waist, and in some places

places inroaching on my forehead enough to set off my complexion by the contrast, without hiding the shape of it. This peculiarity of dress, your Ladyship may easily imagine, fixed the observation of all who saw me. I soon became sensible of the occasion of the excessive gazing so very painful to me, though accompanied by expressions of admiration even to exclamations of astonishment; so fond are people of novelty, to which, no doubt, I owed the greatest part of the compliments paid me. I begged Lord Dorchester to procure me a proper head dress, with which he unwillingly complied; so that before the end of my journey I made a decent and common appearance.

Though I was amused by the novelty of the objects which passed before me in so quick a succession, and by Lord Dorchester's lively and entertaining conversation, yet I was not sorry when he told me that our journey was at an end; and that the house to which we drove, through a long and very wide avenue of venerable oaks, was his own, and the place where our travelling was to cease. The magnificence of the building first struck my eye; but when I entered it, the elegance of the furniture

furniture pleased me still more. The carving and the pictures charmed me; the country represented in these, appeared more enchanting than nature itself, as the painter's imagination assembles beauties in reality never found together. My raptures were not silent, my admiration broke forth into exclamations. I ran from one room to another, desirous of seeing more, though not weary of what I had seen. Lord Dorchester with difficulty prevailed with me to go with him into the garden before the sun ceased to gild the prospect. I was unwilling to leave a house which presented such various beauties to my eyes, but I could not regret it when he led me to a terras, beneath which runs a rapid river of a considerable breadth. On one side it commands a very extensive and beautiful prospect, on the other is the river, the banks beyond which are very high, and covered with a hanging wood, ornamented with some fine buildings, most judiciously placed.

From the end of this terras we entered into a wood cut into various walks, all terminated with fine views or some agreeable objects, and many of them opening in different parts, to let in either prospects
of

of the country, or views of the river, which runs through part of the wood with great rapidity, falling down a rock of a considerable height at the end of one of the walks. A little beyond this cascade, it is hid from sight for some distance, and when it again appears, its form is much altered, for it is deep, and yet so clear that one plainly discovers every pebble at the bottom, its surface as smooth as glass. In this wood, likewise, are many buildings most advantageously placed.

The garden is divided from the park only by a *ha ha*, unaccustomed to which deception, I thought there was no separation, till on the brink of it. The eagerness of an enraptured fancy, charmed with all the beauties around me, made me long to pass these boundaries, but the evening was so far advanced I was obliged to defer this gratification till the next day, and only to admire at a distance the mixture of fine lawns and venerable groves, verdant vallies and wooded hills. The extent of it is considerable, and the variety of grounds gives it an air of wildness, which greatly charms in the midst of a country so diligently cultivated,

tivated that one expects to see there more of the beauties of art than of nature.

When night obliged me to return to the house, Lord Dorchester conducted me to an apartment designed for me. The bedchamber was elegantly furnished; but the dressing-room most surprized me; it contained so many things that were new to me, that I could scarcely guess their use. The ornaments and the toilette engaged my affections for some time, though had I been more accustomed to such things, I should have been still more sensible of the richness and elegance of them. Every thing in the room had its share of my admiration, but after the momentary wonder was passed, all these nice efforts of the arts of the ingenious fell far short of my estimation of the beauties I beheld from the windows, under which were parterres of the finest flowers, mixed with the most fragrant shrubs, and beyond them the river, the wood, and the park. When every thing else had passed my examination, Lord Dorchester opened some drawers, and shewed me that they were filled with linen, clothes and trinkets, such as are customary

customary in this country. Having never had a notion of any thing in dress beyond neatness and cleanliness in the homeliest garb, I could not help being struck at the resplendency of all the ornaments I beheld. The fineness of the linen I thought curious, but the laces astonished me; they appeared to me of a delicacy beyond human workmanship. Had I been at liberty to have indulged my vanity, I should that moment have tried the effect of things which I imagined must prove so ornamental. But my Lord's presence awed me, and being told supper was on table, I was obliged to accompany him to another room, where we spent the remainder of the evening till the hour of repose parted us.

C H A P. VIII.

I THAT night experienced what people who live in grandeur often find, that pomp will not give tranquillity, which alone dispenses quiet rest. The agitation of my mind allowed me very little sleep, I had too much matter for reflection from Lord Dorchester's respectful and affectionate behaviour, which I could by no means think my due, from my enforced separation from my aunt, and my former habitation, dragged into a new world, wholly ignorant of the reasons of my being so, or the consequences of it, and from the pleasure I had conceived at the sight of every thing now offered to my enjoyment; which my Lord even assured me was my property, affirming all I beheld was my own; a gift I could not suppose real, as the little I saw of the English in my journey gave me no reason to believe them so generous and disinterested as to make such presents. In reflecting on these subjects I passed my night, and had some moments of pleasure mixed with my grief, but they bore little proportion with each other; my sorrow seemed deeply rooted, though its violence

violence was abated, while the contrary sensation appeared only a sudden flutter, which played round my head but came not near my heart, and would not admit of reflection: however I found it so comfortable a resource, that I endeavoured to encourage it, and, prompted by curiosity, at break of day I arose to examine more minutely the things which had so charmed me the night before. If I believed any one was ever formed without vanity, I might be fearful of exposing myself by confessing mine; but I may hope to meet with indulgence from one of my own sex, who will candidly imagine herself in my place: by her my youth may be received as some excuse; and if I am convicted of having had more than a common share, may I not also claim some title to unusual sincerity in giving room for the accusation, and hope that virtue may obtain a pardon for my frailty? I searched every drawer, and after admiring the things they contained, felt a desire to try the effect of this profusion of ornaments. The night-gowns and common undresses were grown familiar to me during my long journey, therefore I laid them aside as not exciting my curiosity, and selected the

the most resplendent part of my apparel and trinkets.

For my first trial, I chose a white lutestring gown and petticoat, flounced with pink and silver gauze, each flounce edged with a pink and silver fringe. I wove flowers and jewels in with my hair, letting the ringlets fall down my back, which I had lately confined under a cap. I put a small garland of the flowers and jewels round my head, and a larger across my waist and neck, passing it over my shoulder on one side, and fixing it to the bottom of my waist on the other. I omitted nothing which I thought could adorn my face and person, and put on every ornament that I could contrive to place becomingly. Finding my gown too long without a hoop, I put on the smallest, as a necessary distortion, not as a pretty part of dress; but immediately threw away the stiff stays, which seemed to me invented in perverse opposition to nature, and one of the proofs with which I thought this country abounded, that man in his folly had declared open war with her, and by pretending to improve, had so spoiled her works, that scarcely any traces of the divine artificer remained.

VOL. I

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Thus

Thus equipped, the employment of some hours, I was so engaged in admiring my sweet person in the looking-glass, doing honour to every beauty I could discover, and making myself full amends for the trouble I had taken, by the satisfaction with which I beheld the effects of it, that I did not perceive Lord Dorchester, who passed by my window; and seeing me, your ladyship will easily imagine, was tempted to take a nearer view of so diverting a figure. He came into my room without my perceiving him: when he entered the chamber he was beginning to excuse his coming in so abruptly; but on my turning round, surprized to hear his voice, and ashamed at being thus caught in the ridiculous indulgence of my vanity, he was struck silent, perhaps more from wonder at my folly, than, as he pretended, "from admiration at seeing me so much surpass myself, thus attired; having before, he said, thought me beyond the possibility of improvement." I was sensible of the flattery couched in this speech; for with all my partiality to myself, I could not believe I had beauty to surprize, though I fancied I had enough to please. He lavished every expression that could shew me how much he was delighted with

with my person. My complexion, my eyes, my hair, every feature received new praises; my air and shape were not passed over in silence. He kissed my hands a thousand times, and would not part with them out of his. Surely no eyes ever expressed such a mixture of tenderness and admiration; every look increased my confusion: his behaviour put me more out of countenance than the reflection of having been found so foolishly employed.

I believe it was near two hours before I could prevail on Lord Dorchester to cease his flattery, or to take his eyes off me; till at last I was reduced to tell him that I should be glad to be left to undress, for that I was very hungry, and wanted my breakfast, but could not appear before his servants thus apparelled.

He started at my saying this, and cried out, "how happy are you, Ophelia, in
" that insensibility of heart, which suffers
" you to think of such trifles! but how
" miserable does it make me!" I, who thought breakfast a serious consideration, was surprized to find him so hurt at my mentioning it; and told him, that I could not comprehend how it should either excite envy or distress: but as he begged I

would not undress till after breakfast, on which consideration he would himself bring it into my dressing room, to humour my desire of not being seen; I complied, glad to reconcile a difference of inclination to which so serious an air had been given.

My Lord immediately kept his word; but during the whole time his thoughts and eyes were so fixed on me that he did not well know what he did. He scalded his fingers, spilt his tea, let fall his bread and butter, and in short made such a confusion, that I could not forbear laughing, though I endeavoured to avoid it to the utmost of my power: he at first blushed and sighed, but at last joined with me, and complimented me, in ridiculing himself.

It was almost dinner time before I could prevail on my Lord to leave me to put on cloaths more proper for common wear, which at last he did, I dare say not a little pleased at finding that what he must have designed for captivating a childish fancy, and corrupting by glaring follies a mind bred in simplicity and reason, had succeeded so well.

The remainder of this day and the next were spent in seeing Lord Dorchester's park; the extent of it, and the variety it contained

contained, made it a full employ for that time.

Two days more passed in seeing some neighbouring places, which were fine enough to merit attention, though by no means equal in beauty or magnificence to my lord's. In this time I had some opportunities of observing instances of his humanity and goodnature, which contributed more towards abating my fears, than his continual endeavours to amuse me to obtain my pardon and merit my affection.

I could not believe that he had torn me from calm happiness for the chance of making me happier, as he pretended; what he had done was a mystery hitherto to me inexplicable; but I hoped the man who could be humane and kind to others, would not be cruel to one who had the greatest tie on his generosity, that of being within his power, unfriended and defenceless: encouraged by this hope I became able to converse with ease, and ceased reproaches, which might exasperate, but I had, by melancholy experience, found were unavailing.

C H A P. IX.

THE second sunday after our arrival at this house, Lord Dorchester proposed my accompanying him to church, to which I readily consented. Though I had been taught to look on all space as the temple of the great Creator, yet my aunt had informed me that in populous places there were edifices erected for public worship. When the service was ended, we walked over it; the building is pretty, but then appeared to me too much calculated to please the eye, and to fix the thoughts on the arts of men's hands, to be a proper place for divine worship; where the suppliant soul should be intirely filled with adoration of the Supreme Being to which it is dedicated. The little fabrics the church contained, by the beauty of the marble, and of the carving, pleased me greatly, as objects, but not as ornaments for such a place, till my Lord told me their solemn purpose, informing me that they were erected to the memory of his ancestors.

This made me more particularly observe them, and I was soon deeply engaged in reading the characters which I found engraven.

graven on them; this perusal filled me with admiration; such exalted virtue as by these testimonies I understood had descended through several generations, was a pleasing subject for contemplation. The little time I had been in the inhabited part of this kingdom had taught me that such merit was not universal. My heart was filled with a respect approaching to adoration, at thinking I trod on ground sanctified by being the repository of the sacred remains of such god-like men. I could not forbear addressing their departed souls with a zeal and reverence little short of worship, and praying for the influence of their great examples towards enabling me to imitate their virtues.

Lord Dorchester cruelly broke in upon so pleasing a rapture, telling me that I gave too easy faith to the words of man; “though these are my ancestors,” said he, “I must confess few of them had any of the qualities here ascribed to them. I might have suffered you, my dear Ophelia, to have continued in your mistake, as it would perhaps have given you more favourable thoughts of the descendant from such worthies, had I not found myself envious of the great share of your esteem, which by these

“ false characters they had gained. Envy
“ makes me tell you, that epitaphs are
“ formed on ideal characters: the writer
“ collects together all the virtues, graces,
“ and accomplishments, that are scattered
“ among mankind; and when these are
“ all blended together with all the elegance he is master of, he applies them
“ to any one who, at his death, wants that
“ memorial of his goodness which his
“ life has not testified. To him whose
“ actions have raised no character, a
“ tomb is erected to bear on it that
“ which an epitaph can give him. Resemblance is never thought of; if the
“ deceased has not one of the qualities
“ described, it serves the purpose just as
“ well.”

I was indeed inclined to suspect my Lord of envy; I could scarcely believe what he said; but when he convinced me of the truth of this account, I sincerely repented the pollution of these innocent ashes, in being made subjects of such falsehoods; and pitied the pure marble, for having its fair outside defiled by such foul lies. But what made this practice appear still more ridiculous to me, was Lord Dorchester's adding, that this was now so commonly known, that no one
gave

gave the least faith to these monumental inscriptions; that it should have lost its use, and yet be continued, increased my wonder. My Lord likewise told me that many people left directions concerning their monuments. It is not strange if this appeared ridiculous to me then, since use has not yet taught me to see it in any other light, nor made me cease to wonder that it should share the dying thoughts of people, who, I should imagine, must all have something to leave behind more worthy their care; and something to expect more deserving their attention, than their own miserable carcases-

I was not without self-love, but had no notion that it could extend to the dust into which we were to moulder, and make us desirous to fix our claim to every particular particle.

Though I had not, till Lord Dorchester broke in upon my solitude, ever received a grain of flattery, yet mere nature and constitution had given me a little vanity, without the benefit of comparison; unable to soothe my fancy with excelling multitudes, since I had never beheld them, yet in a degree I was vain: nature alone suffices to make us so; but this kind of posthumous vanity was far above my

simple conception; and I complimented myself on my humility, in being only reasonably fond of a living form of delicate and curious composition, absolutely indifferent to any poor remains, after delicacy of complexion, symmetry of features, and elegant proportion of body shall be confounded together in one little heap of dust.

Lord Dorchester, to save his ancestors from my partial censure, led me into the church yard, where he shewed me that the folly was universal, and that the poor were as tenacious of the little spot to which, after death, they are consigned, as those who assert their title to it by nobler structures. I confess I was shocked at this distinction of ranks, and to find that here the rich and the poor do *not* lie down together; this custom seemed to me to destroy the equality of the grave, which ends greater contentions than those of precedence.

Upon reading the epitaphs of the meaner sort, I found their vanity was often confined within the narrow bounds of having lived and died: they were little more than certificates of their former existence, proud to assert their having been of the human species, for many of their woden monuments,

ments, more perishable than themselves, bear no other inscription than the date of their birth and death.

Though I was greatly disgusted with these proofs of the folly of mankind, yet at this time the living were more disagreeable to me than the dead. I liked better to be an observer, than the subject of observation. Though in my dress I had conformed to the customs of the place to the utmost of my power, yet there certainly was a strangeness in my look or air that drew all eyes upon me, and which for many years did not wear off, while I remained in the country: I attributed it to the curiosity natural to people who see few strangers; but after I left it, I found that by living in a more populous place I only had more eyes upon me. Curious observation fettering the freedom of action, I lived under constant and painful restraint. My Lord endeavoured to make me easy by flattery, attributing it to reasons which might please my vanity; but though I did due honour to my person, yet I could not give him credit; and though I might now the more excusably believe it, that I have seen the observation lessen as my complexion has decayed; and that fewer eyes
have

have been upon me since the lustre of mine have been abated by age ; yet am I convinced that the only superiority I had over many who while I was present passed unregarded, was in the air of a stranger to every fashion which I strove to follow ; this gave the charm of novelty to a face and person which could boast no other excellence above a thousand others which were less observed.

I would not have your ladyship imagine that I am aiming to be thought humble ; I am very ready to allow myself all the beauty I am conscious I possessed ; but fashion or chance often exalts us above our real charms. If truth did not oblige me to make this confession, I should not venture to say it, for fear of being believed ; for our sex are as vain of having been, as of being handsome ; and though they, while young, live in just terror of the words, *she was*, yet when that fatal period comes, their vanity retires into it as into a fortress ; and secure in this strong hold, from which nothing can expel it, it makes little excursions, and supports itself with the booty it obtains. One of our own sex has told us, with full as much truth as poetry, that,

‘ Women

“ Women kind’s peculiar joys,
“ From past, or present beauties rise.”

How often does a woman’s partial report emulate in falshood the lying epitaphs which shocked my innocent simplicity ! After the small pox, which frequently is the grave of beauty, how many women have I heard boast the charms they never possessed ; and soften the mortification of seams and scars, by praising the former clearness and smoothness of their complexions.

But this subject has led me from the order which should be kept in a narration ; I have wandered from the time to which I had brought my story, and must correct my irregularity by returning to it.

C H A P. X.

LORD Dorchester’s desire of giving me every pleasure in his power, led him to make me a present of a sum of money. I would have excused myself from the acceptance of it, as it appeared
to

to me entirely useless: every thing I could want was provided for me; I wished therefore to refuse an unnecessary burthen; but he insisted, and I was obliged to acquiesce.

As I had learnt that money was a very necessary thing to those who were not so amply supplied with all it could purchase as I was, I thought it a pity it should be so ill employed, and determined to distribute the sum, to me so useless, among persons who were in real want of it. Accordingly, one morning, when business had called my Lord a few miles from home, I walked out, in search of people who might be made happier by those riches which were to me entirely useless. I entered the first cottage I saw, and bluntly asked the inhabitants if they wanted money? They answered in the affirmative, with an eagerness which persuaded me they were in extreme indigence. I now began to feel the value of the treasure before despised, since it could give such true heart-felt joy as I received, from being able to relieve wretches, of whose former distress I judged by their present extacies. When I gave some guineas to the mother, she appeared quite frantic with delight; though my raptures were silent;

silent, yet I could not but think my sensations were as strong. I, for some time, indulged myself in the contemplation of her joy, but as my ignorance of the customs of this country, so new to me, made me curious, I at last put a force on my delighted imaginations, and enquired into the use she would make of the money I had given her.

Nothing but a full knowledge of my ignorant simplicity, can give your ladyship a notion of my surprize, when I received for answer, “ That she would buy
“ herself and children handsome cloaths,
“ keep as good a house at the next wake
“ as any woman in the parish, and never
“ again work for a neighbouring farmer’s
“ wife, who was of meaner birth than herself.” I was shocked to find that I had been contributing to the increase of vanity and laziness, which must have been great before, or the good woman could not have been so much overjoyed at obtaining the power of gratifying it. I had no way to silence the reproaches of my conscience but by false reasonings, arguing that when such unreasonable desires are too deeply rooted to be conquered, they deserve our compassion; and that the money was better

ter employed in relieving wants, though they were but imaginary, than in being locked up in my bureau.

A great proof of my ignorance of mankind was my endeavour to reason this woman out of her vanity; reason is too precious a blessing to be in the gift of mortals; I could instil none into her mind, and was at last forced to give up my attempt, finding my arguments had much less influence on her, than the desire of exciting the admiration of her neighbours. The disappointment I met with in this instance did not discourage me from continuing my course: such vanity of mind appeared to me a monster in nature; I could not believe the world afforded such another; therefore fearless of meeting the like ill success again, I entered the next poor cottage. I found the man to whom it belonged sitting in the chimney corner, with all the marks of sickness and decay in his countenance; his wife industriously employed, and seven children, the eldest helping her, the younger part playing about him. I looked some time with pleasure on this little family, for children were still a kind of wonder to me, who had never seen any till I was torn from my solitude; our
own

own infancy, by the gradual increase of years, making little impression on us: I then put the same question to these cottagers as to the last I visited, but with less impetuosity was answered by the sick man, that "indeed they were very poor, and " must have starved, had not his wife " been one of the best women in the world. " For he had been by sickness disabled " from working above two months, without money to purchase a cure." " Purchase a cure!" I replied, with some surprise, " is there any one who is possessed " of the power of curing diseases would " require to be paid for it?"

" Alas!" said the man, " nothing is to " be had without money; our doctor must " have his fee or we can have no cure." An accusation of such inhumanity made me exclaim with tears in my eyes against this second monster, which I thought I had discovered. I asked the man, " why, in " such necessity, he had not applied to " Lord Dorchester?" His answer was, " that my Lord's steward was his enemy, " and therefore he had no hopes of receiving relief from him, as he was " ashamed to speak to my Lord himself." I observed to him that " every one must " be well received by my Lord, who gave " him

“ him an opportunity of exercising his
“ bounty and humanity; that it could
“ not be in the power of any of his de-
“ pendants to prevent him from conferring
“ favours on the deserving, and relieving
“ the distressed: but that had an appli-
“ cation to his steward been necessary,
“ whatever offence he might have taken,
“ his anger must have vanished at the
“ sight of so much wretchedness.”

The man shook his head, and said,
“ Ah! Madam, you are very, very young,
“ and I am afraid too good for this world;
“ God grant you may not soon have rea-
“ son to change your opinion of it.”

I did not then understand the force of these words. I have since learned, that they must have proceeded from surprize at my ignorant belief in the virtue of mankind. When I had given money to these people, I enquired into the use they would make of it, of which they gave me so rational an account that I doubled the sum with the greatest delight imaginable; happy in the amends this made me for the disappointment I found in the unworthiness of the last person to whom I had given some part of my burden.

This success encouraged me to continue my round.

The

The next cottage I went into pleased me by its neatness. I saw only one inhabitant in it; she was a very pretty girl, extremely clean, tho' as coarsely dressed as possible; she was busy in her dairy, and nothing about her wore such signs of poverty, as in the other houses I had been in; however, desirous to see whether the love of money was universal, I asked her whether she wanted any.

The girl, in answer, said she could not properly be said to want, since her father and she, by industry and hard labour, were supplied with the necessaries of life, but that she confessed she wished for money, perhaps as much as the most necessitous.

This appeared to me a symptom of a depraved appetite, but I enquired her reason. To which she replied, that, "All questions were not to be answered." My curiosity was perhaps more prevalent than my compassion; when I told her "that if I thought the motive of her wishes a good one I might gratify them."

"If you will buy the secret I am sure you deserve it," replied the girl; and then very honestly informed me, tho' not without blushes, "that a young man in the neighbourhood had loved her from
a child.

“ a child, and been equally beloved by
“ her ; that they were to have been mar-
“ ried by the consent of both their parents,
“ when, a few days before the appointed
“ time, his father died, and left debts
“ behind him to the value of twenty
“ pounds ; an immense sum to a poor
“ labourer. On this account her father
“ withdrew his consent till such time as
“ the whole should be paid. This was
“ such a spur to her lover’s industry, that
“ he worked far beyond his strength, in
“ order to raise the money ; and yet it
“ was so much to save, out of a labourer’s
“ small profits, that notwithstanding his
“ endeavours it must be some years before
“ the debt can be paid off. She con-
“ cluded by telling me that had she mo-
“ ney she would shorten the time of her
“ separation ; during which his affection
“ for her might cool, and the more rea-
“ sonably as he might look on the immo-
“ derate fatigue which oppressed his
“ mind, and overcame his health, as the
“ consequences of his love for her ; and
“ it was grievous to her to have that
“ appear in his eyes as the source of any
“ evils.”

A few

A few gentle tears trickled down the poor girl's cheeks, while she imparted her apprehension, which moved my compassion, as well as my reason, to a desire of relieving her. I instantly gave her the sum she wanted, and was overpaid by the delicacy and vivacity of her gratitude, from which I might not immediately have been freed, had not her lover passed by the window, bending under a heavy load of corn: this sight attracted her with all the speed her legs could use, and, winged with love, she was with him before I had moved three steps from the spot where she had left me. I stayed a little to see the various emotions expressed in their countenances; she more delighted to tell, than he could be to hear; as the fatigues he had undergone had more afflicted her than him, to whom they were sweetened by the reward promised to their success.

When their mutual congratulations were over, I saw the young man was accompanying his mistress, as I imagined, to add his grateful acknowledgments to hers, and that they might not have their more pleasing conversation broke in upon, by a return they thought necessary, I slipped out at another door, and wandered on with the same agreeable intention.

I had

I had not gone far, when my compassion was excited by the sight of a hut whose outward appearance bore every sign of poverty, and when I entered I found the inside perfectly corresponded with it. It was one general scene of wretchedness; the inhabitants were almost naked, and seemed expiring with hunger.

I was so much shocked at this sight, that I could not speak to them till a few tears had rendered my compassion less painful. During my silence they begged relief with all the clamour of extreme necessity; but could not be more desirous to receive than I was to give, which I did liberally, emptying my purse into the lap of the mother of the family, whom I thought the properest treasurer for the whole.

Without staying to make any acknowledgments, or leaving me time to put my usual question, the woman ran up stairs; upon this a young girl, who seemed on the verge of the grave, burst into tears, and was accompanied in them by all the rest, except an old man, who sat by and appeared insensible of all that passed.

I asked

I asked the wretched meagre race what occasioned this sudden flow of grief; when I had hoped I had administered present relief to their necessities?

The sickly girl answered, that “to relieve them was beyond the power of any being but him who could change the heart. My mother’s avarice,” added she, “will defeat the kind intention of your bounty; she is not the real parent of any of us. My father was esteemed rich for one in his station, which tempted the woman who has just been the object of your generous pity, to marry him, and thereby to reduce us all, who were the children of a former wife, to the greatest misfortunes that can arise from extreme indigence. She is so very covetous that she will not afford cloathing either for herself or us, or give us any wholesome food; the little sustenance we obtain just suffices to keep us enough alive to feel the misery of continual famine: My poor father’s understanding was impaired by a stroke of the palsy, in a year after she married him, happily losing thereby the quick sense of his misfortunes. Before

“ fore I was brought into so very bad a
“ state of health, I used my utmost en-
“ deavours to prevail on her to let me
“ go to service; but the expence of
“ cloathing me as was necessary, if I
“ left home, appeared so formidable to
“ her that she would never come into
“ it.”

I pitied this wretched family more than ever; and when the woman came down again I tried all the arguments I could devise to prevail upon her to suffer me to have the laying out of part of the money I had given her; but this attempt so exasperated her that she loaded me with abuse, and I went away the object of her rage and fury instead of her gratitude; but was fully resolved to prevail with Lord Dorchester to administer relief in a more judicious manner to the rest of this miserable family.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

I H A D now disburthened myself of the riches I had felt an incumbrance, though they were a less evil to me than to many others, since they would have lain by me neglected and unthought of, instead of betraying me into vice and folly, as is too often the consequence. But greatly pleased with having delivered up a property of which my indifference to it rendered me unworthy, I returned towards home, strangely perplexed with the unaccountable dispositions I had beheld in this short progress. This subject deeply engaged my thoughts, when they were called from it by the melancholy entreaties of a woman who begged of me. She was sitting on the grass, with two little children by her, whom she was crying over.

I was now grieved that my purse was empty, and reproached myself for my too lavish bounty. Though I was barren of the means of relief, yet I could not forbear listening to the poor woman's story, moved by an appearance superior to such a degree of poverty. Her tale was affecting; an air of sincerity in her for-

row would have convinced me of her truth, had I then been taught incredulity by the observation of deceit; but at that time I should have believed a more improbable story, as nothing could have appeared so incredible to me as that a person would utter a falshood. I found the poor woman was reduced by misfortunes from easy circumstances, and that she, her babes, and her sick husband, were really starving. As her distress was so great, I desired her to accompany me home, where I hoped to be supplied with the means of relieving her; and assisted in carrying her children, a burthen too great for her enfeebled body.

Lord Dorchester, who was returned before me, being told which way I was gone, came out to seek me, and met me in the park with one of the poor woman's babes in my arms, attended by her and the other.

I did not leave him time to enquire how I became thus accompanied; for as soon as he approached me I told him "I had been among beggars till I had learned to beg;" adding, that "after I had so much money, it was shameful to ask for more; but that I had spent all he had given me in buying
" expe-

“ experience, in making my own mind
“ wiser, and that of some others easier.”

I then gave him an account of all I had done, excusing my errors by my ignorance of the perverseness of the tempers of his poor neighbours, by which I had been taught that “ charity does not
“ consist alone in giving money; for that
“ those who bestow not time and care
“ sufficient to discover the merit and necessities of the objects of their bounty,
“ must often feed vanity, idleness, or
“ avarice, and render themselves unable
“ to relieve real distress.”

Lord Dorchester, with a look of sincere affection, told me, “ nothing could make
“ him so happy as my affording him
“ any opportunity of giving me pleasure.
“ His fortune could in no way be so conducive to his happiness; and he
“ thought I had laid out my money
“ to the best purpose that ever any one
“ did, since so much experience was
“ never, he believed, so cheaply purchased.”

He gave me a considerable sum more with a cheerfulness which shewed the sincerity of his word.

This supply afforded me the power of doing every thing requisite for the poor wo-

man's relief, and of enabling her to avoid the like distress for the future. But though money gave me, in this way, great enjoyment, yet I could not be quite pleased with the invention of coin. I looked upon it as the means of unhappiness, and therefore could not forgive it, though it purchased me the satisfaction of relieving some of the evils it occasioned. It appeared to me equally a spur to avarice and an incitement to luxury. The ready exchange of it for all commodities, is, to the vain and voluptuous, as great a temptation to lavishness in expence, as the easiness of laying it up is, to the miser, to indulge the avaricious desire of accumulating. People whose desires are inspired by reason alone, can soon say, "I have enough of every thing;" but vanity, avarice, and luxury, have no bounds; they who are under their influence suffer almost as much pain from their ungratified follies as the poor can feel from indigence. I soon perceived that luxury was universal; even the poorer people enjoyed such a share of it as surprized me, when I compared it with the plain simplicity in which I had been bred.

I could

I could not reconcile myself to manners so unlike my own. I was not soon acquainted with many of their vices; they were so unintelligible to me that I only accused them of folly: but yet I saw they were void of the simplicity I found in my own heart. My Lord's conduct shewed him possessed with many virtues; but still I accused him of inconsistency, for I could by no means reconcile his cruelty to me with his benevolence to every other person. Though I grew too partial to him to continue inconsolable for being separated from my beloved aunt, yet still, often to myself, and sometimes to him, I called that treatment cruel, and bewailed it with many tears; especially when I reflected on what she must have suffered from the time of my departure; for I confess I grieved more for her than for myself: my Lord's conversation had charms that afforded me great consolation; but she could have none. I could not doubt his affection for me; every look, every word, expressed it too visibly to leave any room for uncertainty. His eyes were filled with admiration and tenderness; he could scarcely endure absence for an hour; all joy would forsake his counte-

nance the moment he lost sight of me. But the instant I appeared again, his eyes shot raptures, and welcomed me before his tongue could utter a word. It did not seem to me unnatural that a person who loved another so entirely as I was convinced Lord Dorchester did me, should be desirous of spending his life in her society. Not that I could excuse so forcible a method of procuring it, nor quite understand how so strong an affection as rendered my company necessary to his happiness could be conceived in that short time. But I myself had found such an attachment grow in so small a space, as made it not appear to me absolutely impossible; and in no other way could I form any sort of excuse for Lord Dorchester's violence, though my heart longed to do it; for he had then got a stronger interest in it than I at that time imagined. I could not suspect him of any ill design against my innocence; of all such views I was totally ignorant; I knew not what they meant. The shadow of such schemes had never been represented to my imagination, whose simple purity received no light from his behaviour; which was so modest and respectful, that equal innocence seemed to rule his thoughts. Since
I learnt

I learnt how his mind was corrupted by the depravity of custom, I have often wondered at the command over himself; but, perhaps, he was fortunate in having none to observe him, but one so blinded by ignorance that she could not easily suspect him of ill. I thought his love more tender and more ardent than what my aunt and I had felt for each other; this I attributed to a warmer temper in youth, and to the probability that a friendship for one of equal age might be stronger than where there was a disparity of years, as the similitude of taste and disposition must naturally be greater.

A woman sensible of the dangers attending her situation, might, perhaps, have taken alarm frequently when I saw no cause for fear; thus far my ignorance was convenient to his design, who wished to engage my heart entirely before I could suspect him. For this reason an elderly woman was appointed for my servant; a woman of sense, and more improved education than any one ought to be who could assist in so bad a purpose; for she must have known the motive of all the instructions given her, to which she so closely adhered, that I never received the

least hint from her that there ever was known any criminal intercourse between man and woman. Equal care was taken that no book should fall into my hands, that might lessen my ignorance in this particular. My aunt's history was kept as much a secret by my Lord as by herself, or that might have shewn how much our sex had to fear from the other. To prevent my eyes from being accidentally opened, if I went much about in the neighbourhood, my Lord took care, on one pretence or other, after the little excursion I have mentioned, that I should never go out without him or my servant, who he desired might attend me when he was obliged to be absent. By such means was I kept in an ignorance that now appears to me, on reflection, almost incredible; perhaps it will seem still more so to your ladyship, for none can comprehend the dulness of apprehension in the ignorant who never knew that ignorance.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

DURING the remainder of the summer, I indulged my natural taste for rural beauties. Taught to admire nature in all her works, I could want no better entertainment than what the fine situation of Lord Dorchester's house and park afforded me; especially when this was heightened and refined by his conversation. He continued to instruct my reason and please my vanity at the same time. Child as I was, he treated my understanding with deference, and appeared to me most happy when he conversed with me. He spent almost all his time with me, endeavouring to open my mind. When we walked out, or sat together, under the refreshing shades the park afforded us, he would turn the conversation to the objects around us, explain their natures and their uses, would lead my thoughts from the lesser to the greater, from the vegetable creation to the animal œconomy, and sometimes rise to still sublimer subjects. A task for which nothing but great affection for me could render tolerable to one of an understanding so far superior. I

could not but be delighted, when I observed how gracefully he would, by letting down his own understanding, endeavour to raise mine more to a level with it; and that with an air of tenderness and pleasure, not of condescension, which by a seeming humility affronts our pride.

I was sometimes inclined to fancy that he was not so sensible of my inferiority as I was myself: if I made as poor a figure in his opinion as in my own, I thought he could not look on me as a companion worthy of him; and was afraid of mentioning my own consciousness, lest I should open his eyes to my folly. None admire knowledge so much as the ignorant. My aunt was no philosopher; my Lord seemed inclined to make me one; and when I blushed at my ignorance, would tell me that “in removing it he meant not to re-
“ present what he taught as necessary to
“ be known, only to open a field to my
“ thoughts which should be productive
“ of constant amusement, take from soli-
“ tude all languor and weariness, and by
“ sharing my mind in gayer scenes, secure
“ me from the dangers attending a total
“ dissipation;” adding, that “the plea-
“ sure he received from observing the
“ quickness

“ quickness of my apprehensions, and the
“ clearness of my ideas, was no small in-
“ ducement to him to continue, as a de-
“ light to himself, what he designed at
“ first only as an entertainment to me.”

Every thing that bears the face of wonder pleases a youthful mind. I was charmed with all the novelty which he represented to me; I was almost introduced into a new world; nature wore a different face to me; my whole mind was engaged in contemplating her works; and it was no small proof of my complaisance that I suffered the acquiring the French tongue to divide my thoughts: but Lord Dorchester desired it, and to please him I applied to it with as much earnestness as if it had been the highest gratification to myself. He encouraged me by flattery on the quick progress I made, and, by his conversation, would enliven the dull study of grammar, and teach me the language in great measure by discourse.

My Lord's endeavours to amuse were not wholly applied to my understanding: my heart was to have its share of pleasure. He made me the distributor of his favours. If he gave relief to the poor, it went through my hands. He enabled me
to

to remove the distresses to which I had been a witness, and indulged me in my desire of searching after wretchedness in order to redress it; requiring me never to go unaccompanied by my servant, when he could not attend me; a care which I then esteemed an additional obligation. I was more officiously obeyed in the house than he was: his servants seemed to have learnt from their master to watch every look that might signify my inclination, which they would not give time to rise to a wish. They found this the serene road to their Lord's favour, to which I was certainly indebted for all their assiduity. Had real regard for me inspired any one of them, he would have shewn it more especially by warning me against the base views which they who are acquainted with the manners of mankind must know their Lord entertained.

In this manner my time passed, till the beginning of winter. I was constantly employed, but never weary, for every employment was made an amusement; and I had nothing to prevent my being really happy but the loss of my aunt's company, and the melancholy reflections which would arise whenever I thought of
her

her solitary state, and the grief she must feel on account of her uncertainty concerning me. These would intrude themselves on my liveliest hours: if I enjoyed any entertainment, the remembrance of her would check my pleasure and reproach me for having given way to any one while she was in affliction. Could I have banished these reflections, I should have been extremely happy. The change of season had not robbed me of all my pleasures, it only varied them. The ease of my mind never depended on the gay scenes of nature, nor can my chearfulness be clouded by heavy skies overshadowing the sun. Every thing that is agreeable is not necessary; the decay of all vernal beauties so little affected me, that I was shocked when my Lord told me we must soon remove to London. I felt a sort of dread at the thoughts of a change of place; the cruel state of my mind, during the only journey I had ever taken, had made me associate very painful ideas with that of travelling.

My Lord endeavoured to persuade me that I should prefer London to my country habitation during the winter. He told me of the variety of diversions and crowd
of

of company, which there, in constant succession, invite to amusements.

This appeared to me no bad opportunity of renewing a suit from which I had for some time desisted; and accordingly I told him that since that place afforded such various entertainments, he could not find the loss of so poor a companion as myself; it would, therefore, be the noblest proof of his affection to comply with my ardent wishes of being restored to my aunt, whereby he would bind me in eternal gratitude to his generous humanity.

Despair of success had made me so long silent on this subject, that I believe my Lord was the more shocked at hearing me renew my request: I never saw greater distress in a countenance than was then impressed on his; he made me no immediate answer, till seeming a little to recover himself, with a melancholy air, which improved the beauty of his face, then bedewed with tears, he pressed my hand in his, and putting the other round my waist, "can my lovely Ophelia," said he, "wish to leave me? can you be insensible to the misfortune it would be to me to lose that society from which I can scarcely bear an hour's absence? Ask any thing
" but

“ but yourself, and judge of my love by
“ the pleasure with which I shall grant it :
“ but life has no charms for me but in
“ giving me the power of conversing
“ with you, and to relinquish one is giving up the other.”

I was so moved with the effect of what I had already said, that I could no longer urge my suit ; I could not even wish to go while he seemed averse to it, but told him,
“ It was not just to be offended with me
“ for a desire to return to one with whom
“ I had been so long united in affection,
“ consequently ought to love better than
“ he could me in so short a time.”
“ Cease, my dearest life !” interrupted he ; “ cease to excuse yourself by an apology more cruel than the request. Compare not the cold, the dull affection of
“ an aunt, to that you have inspired me
“ with ; her heart is incapable of such
“ strong sensations. In pity to the tortures your indifference gives me, conceal it ; allow me a possibility of flattering myself again that you make me
“ some return of affection for all I feel for
“ you ; do not throw me any more back to
“ the pains of cruellest disappointment, as
“ you have now done by the renewal of a
“ desire to which I had hoped your heart
“ had

“ had ceased to prompt you. Surely I
“ am the most miserable of men; to be
“ able to impart and teach you every
“ thing but that on which my happiness
“ most depends. Can your mind only
“ receive impressions? Is the heart of my
“ Ophelia insensible to no distress but
“ mine? Will she who endeavours to re-
“ lieve all other wretchedness increase that
“ which she alone can cure?”

Tears accompanied his words, and his head sunk on my shoulder. I could not forbear mingling a few with his. I grieved for having afflicted him; and wiping his eyes with my handkerchief, endeavoured to repair what I had done with the strongest assurances of my affection, which indeed I never felt so powerful as at that moment; and, with a warmth which my heart inspired, assured him “ that gratitude to my
“ aunt for her care of and goodness to my
“ helpless infancy, and pity for what she
“ must have suffered on my account, were
“ the only sentiments that could make me
“ prefer her society to his.”

My unwillingness to give him pain made me ever after silent on this subject: I thought such tender affection deserved my gratitude; and should have looked upon urging this request as a greater
breach

breach of that duty towards him, than my desisting from an unavailing attempt was of my want of duty to my aunt.

But neither the relinquishing that hope, nor the kindest expressions I could use, had power to raise my Lord's spirits; his dejection lasted some days, during which he told me, "all I did now was out of
" compassion, what I said before was the
" dictates of my inclination; and while
" that thought lasted, it was not in the
" power of words to give him consolation."
However, these melancholy impressions, which spread their infection over my heart, wore off before the time of our departure.

My Lord's spirits were not raised by the necessity of changing his abode: he sighed after the season of leisure which left him to the free enjoyment of my company; whereas his winter occupations must frequently divide us. This was a mortifying reflection for me; who, both by inclination and custom, was now taught to think his continual conversation absolutely necessary to my ease of mind, while I was detained from my solitude. But he would endeavour to persuade me that I should be better pleased in London;
that

that novelty and gaiety would more than recompence me for his enforced absence; and with this notion he would increase his dejection, though I often told him this seemed rather the fear of hate than love, since his uneasiness arose from the apprehension of my being pleased. He raved at my insensibility in terms that I could not well comprehend, and made me find that ignorance was dangerous when people are easily offended, for without design I had several times displeased him.

C H A P. XIII.

THE day before we left the place, Lord Dorchester told me that “ it
 “ would be advisable for me to be silent
 “ as to my birth and former way of life,
 “ as well as to the means by which I was
 “ taken from it; for the oddness of the
 “ event would make people curious to
 “ see me, and so attentive in observing me
 “ as would greatly pain my natural bash-
 “ fulness; and that if they perceived my
 “ ignorance of the customs of the world
 “ it

“ it would subject me to ridicule.” He therefore advised me “ to give way only “ to silent wonder, if any thing surprized “ me, except when he only was present ; “ for to him my simplicity and natural “ remarks must always be most delightful ; but that to others it would be unnecessary to give any further account of “ myself than that I was under his care.”

Either my pride or my reason was hurt by the concealment my Lord proposed. I believe the former. Though untaught, reason might have made me condemn those who could ridicule unavoidable ignorance ; yet only pride could make me so warm in my censure. I told my Lord that “ the openness of my disposition “ made me ill qualified for any concealment ; that it would be scarcely possible “ for me to hide my ignorance entirely ; “ and when any signs of it broke forth, “ it might make me appear ridiculous to “ such as knew not my education ; whereas those who did could not be surprized “ at the necessary effects of it. That “ were it a misfortune or a fault, it “ should rather excite pity than mirth. To “ triumph over the weakness of others,” I added, “ is cruel, but when their inferiority

“ ority proceeds merely from the want of
“ advantage and opportunities of im-
“ provement, ’tis no less foolish than
“ inhuman to be proud of a superiority
“ so obtained. To practice virtue is to
“ live up to the dictates of pure and divine
“ wisdom; to know our duty, the end
“ and the design of our creation; and to
“ make it our rule of action is to adorn
“ with pure and warm devotion the au-
“ thor of our being: to be not only
“ humane and benevolent to our fellow
“ creatures, but mindful even to what we
“ esteem the lowest work of God, is
“ wisdom and knowledge beyond what
“ your arts can teach; for by what I
“ have already seen, in leading men after
“ vain pursuits they make them neglect
“ the most important duties.”

My Lord answered, “ that what I said
“ was more agreeable to reason than
“ custom. That the multitude were fool-
“ ish and inconsiderate, and would both
“ blame and praise without just cause.
“ Such opinions indeed a rational person
“ might think below their regard; but
“ experience would teach them that
“ fools, like other reptiles, could teize us
“ with their noise, notwithstanding our
“ just sense of their insignificance.

He

He then represented to me “ how disagreeable I should find it to have all eyes upon me wherever I appeared ; every one, if I spoke, listening to hear what the fair savage would say, and calling natural reason and sense, because little known to them, ridiculous ignorance.”

If he had not mollified the term of savage, he might have incurred the anger so justly due to the people he described ; but he gilded it with love and flattery ; and the vexation I had received at my first appearance, from being gazed at, was so fresh in my remembrance, that it prevailed upon me to consent to the silence he required concerning my past life.

This was not the only thing for which he was to prepare me : he now informed me that we should not live in the same house. This shocked me, I knew not why ; I could not restrain a starting tear ; I felt a proof of abated love ; but pride checked my uttering the accusation, whilst resentment, under the appearance of surprise and curiosity, enquired the reason of it. My Lord told me, that “ his house was not large enough to receive me, with convenience to myself ; beside,

“ side, that the great numbers of people
“ he was obliged to see upon business,
“ would be very troublesome to me.”
The delicacy of these reasons, which I
did not doubt were real, made me speak
plainer than resentment had done; I as-
sured him that “ nothing could be so vex-
“ atious to me as being absent from him,
“ and that were we in different houses I
“ must lose a great deal of his company
“ which I might otherwise enjoy, espe-
“ cially as business would engage him so
“ much at home. For were I under the
“ same roof, the shortest intervals would
“ allow me the sight of him.”

Though he was transported with my rea-
son for begging not to be separated from
him, yet he plausibly evaded all I could
say, and brought me to acquiesce though
not to approve.

C H A P. XIV.

THE next day we bid adieu to the delightful place, where every thing had seemed dedicated to my inclination, and began our journey to London. The first day passed agreeably; the second was favourable for travelling, and we set out early. But stopping on the road to breakfast, my Lord left me, and went to make a visit in the neighbourhood, where I was to call upon him after our necessary refreshment,

Being told the chariot was ready, I went down stairs, and finding it at the door, got in, ordering the servant of the house to tell my Lord's servants to follow, not seeing them in the readiness I expected.

As I had no doubt but my Lord's servants knew better where to call upon him than I did, I made no attempt towards giving directions, which could have been but very imperfect. Indeed I had scarcely time to seat myself, he drove on with such rapidity. I was not inclined to complain of the haste, for no pace could seem too fast for me that was to carry me to the companion whose absence, short as
it

it was, I found time to regret. But after proceeding with unabated speed for half an hour, I began to wonder at the distance which my Lord had called trifling; for we had gone some miles, and yet were not arrived at his friend's house. I grew alarmed, and could not help fearing that the coachman had not received sufficient instructions; I called to him, and exerted my voice to its highest key to make him hear, but all in vain; the road was extremely stoney, and the noise the chariot made so great, that my weak voice was drowned by it. I then recollected that I had never known it rattle so before; this might be the effect of the stoneyness of the road; but yet I wondered I should not have found it, in some degree, in smoother ways. The lining and inside appeared so much the same, I could not suspect I was in a different equipage, till the coachman, looking half way round, I thought, though I had but an imperfect glance of his face, that it was not my Lord's servant. I then looked out at the painting on the outside of the doors, and was immediately sensible that I was not in my Lord's vehicle.

I now

I now grew strangely alarmed, though I knew not what to think, and called to the man to stop, as loud as I possibly could, but with as little success as before; for my voice had not received equal strength with my impatience; and after having screamed myself hoarse, was reduced to wait in silence for a lucky opportunity, to do what my efforts could not; imagining something must soon stop our extraordinary speed. In this hope, however, I was disappointed, for it continued some hours longer, which, fretted and fatigued as I was, appeared to me an age. At last, the chariot drove up to a house, and stopped at the door; but I was by that time so confounded and hurried, that I was in a kind of stupefaction, and scarcely knew how to ask the questions I wanted to have answered.

A fat old woman hobbled out of the house to meet us, and opened the chariot door. My consternation was too great to allow of much connection in my ideas; I cried out, on her taking hold of me, for her appearance was disgusting, who are you? where's my Lord? what place is this? not waiting for an-

swers to the respective questions till all were uttered.

“ Do not be in such a hurry, sweet young lady,” interrupted the fat gentlewoman, “ you are with friends, my pretty dear; his lordship’s honour will be here by and by. You know he must not come in broad day-light; but fear not, as soon as it is dark he will fly to your arms like any spar-row to his mate; and pretty ones they are in faith. Ay, ay, he has an hawk’s eye for beauty, like to like, beauty to beauty, it should be so. All the women long for him, and happy the she that he vouchsafes to take notice of.”

If the first sight of this woman disgusted me, her manner and discourse were still more odious. As she attempted to lead me into the house, I insensibly resisted; I had no reason to refuse it, but confusion and dislike directed my actions, and I should scarcely have known how strongly they operated, had not the old gentlewoman continued, “ why do you stare so, sweet madam? though I am a stranger, I will be as true and trusty to you as ever a woman you
“ could

" could meet with. You seem hugely tiresome truly, but I warrant we shall see you more courageous by and by."

Conquering resistance which was unintended, I suffered myself to be led into the house, where she continued talking in the same fulsome manner, till no longer able to endure her, I desired to be left alone; a favour she would not grant, without a little prelude to her compliance.

" A pretty dear," cried she, " she wants to think a little; well, well, think as much as you please till evening. You tender ones love to pay it off with thinking: well, thoughts are free, as they say, or the Lord have mercy upon us."

Had not her words flowed even more freely than her thoughts could rise, I should have liked her company better, and found less occasion to cry out for mercy, though she seemed to think freedom of thought so dangerous. The old woman, indeed, was not mistaken in supposing I wanted to think, for I really had occasion for a little time to compose my mind, in order to get some light into this strange event; but little could reflection give me; I was more than ever at a loss to guess at Lord Dorchester's

F 2

meaning

meaning in all this, and thinking more increased my perplexity. I repented that my dislike to the woman's conversation had made me forbear trying if she could give me any information as to my Lord's intention, which was not impossible, as she seemed so well apprized of the time he was to come there. My repentance was in no danger of being long, as a sincere amendment may reasonably comfort the repentant person, for in about an hour she returned, and gave me an opportunity of repairing my neglect, though not so immediately as at her first appearance I hoped to do; for till I had stood her discharge of nonsense, I had no chance of being heard. Before I could make an attempt to speak, she began.

“ What still wishing, and wishing the sun
“ to make haste to bed? yes, yes, to be sure,
“ the moon gives a more prettier light to
“ such a sweet pair as you are. Well! a
“ handsomer couple one would not wish to
“ see in a summer's day; you are a perfect
“ beauty, sweetening; and a more comelier
“ gentleman never trod this earth.
“ But, my pretty jewel, one cannot
“ live upon sheer love; you will love
“ the

“ the better for a little good eating and
“ drinking. Do not think you shall be
“ starved in this house ; here it comes.”

Accordingly the cloth was laid and the table spread in less time than she had spent in her preface to it, and she so notably bestirred herself in this part of her business, that I could not make her listen to the questions I put concerning the reasons of my Lord's so suddenly altering the intentions with which he left me. I hoped for more attention when that part of her employ was over, but found her thoughts had still a stronger attraction; for when the table was covered, her whole faculties were ingrossed in doing honour to her entertainment, on which she made such depredations, that I no longer wondered at her bulk. I had little inclination to eat, therefore repeated my questions, but got no answer, except, “ she knew nothing of that; the
“ first she had heard of the affair was,
“ that my Lord would be there as that
“ night, and that she might expect me
“ in the morning; as for any farther de-
“ sign, she was ignorant of it.” Finding I could learn little from her, I intreated her absence, as soon as she had

finished her meal, and determined to wait my Lord's arrival with what patience I could. From him I hoped to learn the occasion of this strange whim, for as such I could but esteem it; and repined at my fate, that had subjected me to be the sport of any one's caprice; for it had really a very disagreeable effect on my spirits. However, as I grew more composed, I began to persuade myself that a man whose love had been so very sincere could not mean to distress me; he could not be much to blame; chance must certainly be partly in fault. With these reflections administering what consolation I could to my mind, I waited the close of day, and when that arrived, I durst not call for artificial light, lest my fat landlady should accompany the candles; and she did not bring them voluntarily, I suppose, from a notion that I was asleep; for I got away by expressing a weariness, which was real, though a desire of sleep was not the consequence of it.

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

AFTER I had been about an hour in the dark, I heard an equipage drive into the yard. My heart now felt a flutter it had never known before; this being the first time of any long separation from my Lord, I was, till now, ignorant of the pain or pleasure of expectation. I knew not how very dear his company was to me, till taught by being a whole day without it. I immediately thought I penetrated his design in this whimsical adventure; imagining that he certainly had contrived it as a punishment for my desire of leaving him, and to prevent my re-urging that request, by making me better acquainted with my own heart, which could never be able to bear his absence.

My impatience would have carried me to meet him, had not the want of light made me unable to find my way; however I was pleased to discover, by the haste with which he ran up stairs, that he was not less impatient to see me. The door flew open, while his hobbling guide

puffed after him, with a pace so unequal to his, that when he entered the room the glimmering of her distant light served only to give us a very imperfect view of each other. I scarcely could discern him before I found myself in his arms. The rapidity with which he flew to me, and the eagerness of his embrace, astonished and startled me. I never had seen any degree of such familiarity in him. I was not sensible of any impropriety in the expressions of affection; but without knowing a reason for it, I was disturbed with this address. I could not think such violence the necessary consequence of love. I was as much rejoiced, I imagined, as he could be, and yet such behaviour did not appear natural to me. Suddenly we heard a scream, accompanied by some oaths in a hoarser tone, which served as basis to the shrill treble of the affrighted old gentlewoman, and terrified me to a great degree. We presently heard their steps upon the stairs, and a man crying out "where is this disgrace to my family? restore her to me, or this sword shall force her from you!" "Never!" answered the gentleman with me, in a voice quite different from my Lord's, "never

“ never shall she be torn from these arms ;
“ with my life will I defend her ! ” and
caught fast hold of me, who was endeavouring to run as far from these horrid threats as I could. Had not fear overpowered my senses, I might have perceived there must be some mistake in this affair ; but fright and ignorance made me incapable of drawing any rational conclusions, and I had little chance of recovering myself, as the old woman entered trembling, with a candle, followed by a middle-aged gentleman, who had his drawn sword in his hand and fury in his eyes. A lady about the same age came last, though not behindhand in anger, if one might judge by her countenance or words, both very expressive ; but not the shrillness of her voice, or sharpness of her tongue, a woman’s only weapons, could have terrified me so much as that same instrument of steel. Its appearance was so awful in the eyes of the gentleman I had supposed Lord Dorchester, that he let me go, that he might the better oppose his assailant in the same manner ; and the first use I made of my liberty was to fly to a closet at the other
end

end of the room, wherein I bolted myself with the utmost expedition; for which I might not so conveniently have found time, had not the lady pushed her fat guide with a violence which her legs, oppressed by their burden, could not support.

Down fell the mighty load of flesh upon the ground; and the lady, not expecting to overthrow such a mountain, had exerted her strength too far, and by the old woman's giving way was so drawn off her bias that she fell over her.

Though I continued to tremble more than did honour to my courage, yet I made use of the privilege the glass door to the closet afforded me, observing through it the skirmish from which I was so happily delivered. The clamours grew intolerable; the old gentleman treated the young one with fury, the younger returned it with scorn; names quite new to me were given and returned; each called aloud for vengeance, but neither hastened to take it. Their swords shone bright indeed, but appeared safe as in their scabbards; as they were not quite resplendent enough to dazzle the eyes, they seemed perfectly innocent.

More

More vigorously did our softer sex exert itself: the lady administered fuel to her own anger by reviling the stumbling block that had ignominiously brought her to the ground. She called her bawd; ennobling every sentence with that name, which was so unknown to me that I imagined it a synonymous term for a fat woman. She accused her of ruining her daughter; and having worked herself up into a proper spirit, fell to beating her most unmercifully.

The victim of her rage roared all the time as if she expected every blow would end the life she had nourished with so much pleasure and care. At last, finding that defence not sufficient to deliver her from an enemy whose ears had been too much accustomed to her own "troublous uproar" to be capable of being wounded by clamour, she tried her strength, and struggled with such success, that she extricated her arms from under her antagonist, and returned the blows. The battle now grew very hot: fierce were the attacks and vigorous the defence: tongues, instead of drums, animated the combatants; for they did not suspend the exercise of speech, though their hands sufficiently pro-

proclaimed their animosity to persons of any tolerable apprehension. But they assaulted each others ears with as much violence as their caps. Abuse flew as thick as blows; and it was not long before they were both uncoiffed. The loss of one cap exposed to view a fine head of grey hair, though then cruelly dishevelled, that seemed to denote more maturity of reason and coolness of brain than was agreeable to what had passed. The other seized these hoary honours; the reverence they should have inspired being totally extinguished by envy, which gave redoubled rage to the enemy: the same accident happening to herself, unfortunately exposed a hairless head, for Time had been more cruel to her; however a few grasps made such violent depredations, that, as Shakespear says, "she made these odds all even;" for, getting the better of the partiality of Time; she reduced her adversary to the same bald state as herself.

While the women shewed an implacable desire of revenge, the wiser men still contented themselves with only declaring their thirst for vengeance. Their resolutions seemed all for blood and murder: every word threatened maiming, scarifications, wounds,

wounds, or death; but they were too great philosophers not to govern their actions, though their unruly tongues could not be controuled. They brandished their swords, but each was careful to avoid giving any scratch that might exasperate his antagonist. In short, they stormed so exactly in the same key that neither found himself so inferior to the other as to be reduced to call in a sharper assistant. Nor could either prevail on himself to attempt the destruction each swore to effect, till the old gentleman recollecting he might gain the honour of a murder without danger of a mortal resistance, prudently changed the object of his threats, and calling to me under the flattering denomination of his shameless daughter, swore he would break down the door if I did not open it instantly; and as solemnly assuring me that when he could get me within his reach he would pierce my disobedient heart. This, no doubt, was a most alluring invitation; he would have had an excellent chance of bringing me out of my sanctuary by such a declaration, had I not grown sensible that I owed my danger to a mistake, and therefore the surest way of avoiding the one was to rectify the other.

Though

Though as soon as I became convinced of the error which occasioned this bustle, I began to find some entertainment in the fray, yet my spirits were in too discomposed a situation to be much pleased. I resolved to shew myself, to quiet the tempest, but knew not how to perform it safely: should that old man remain as obstinate in his error as the young one, he might deprive me of all sense before I could restore him to his senses. In age, anger will be sometimes quicker than the fight; I therefore was resolved not to surrender at discretion, but purposed to capitulate before I ventured out of my fortress. I called out to them that "they
" were all mistaken in me; that I was
" united to none of them either by blood
" or affection; and if the gentleman who
" supposed himself my father would but
" give his eyes leisure to convince him of
" his error, I would come forth to them."

The promise I asked was given me, and I opened my door; but I had not gone two steps into the room before the old man, whose eyes were grown dim by age, and his reason obscured by passion, ran at me with his sword drawn. I was flying back into my asylum, from whence I
should

should not easily have been again tempted forth, had not the young gentleman rescued me from the sudden end with which my existence was threatened by catching hold of the outrageous father. Upon the promise of not letting him go till better light had cleared up the mistake, I consented to venture to approach the candle, which immediately shewed them all that they were in an error, and gave rise to a new kind of uproar, one exclaiming for his Harriet, the other crying out for his daughter; and all appeared so mortified to find a stranger in her place, that I began to apprehend a bad reception, especially as I could give but very indifferent answers to their various questions. We were not long at a loss to comprehend that all this confusion was occasioned by the servant at the inn having informed me of the readiness of this young nobleman's equipage, instead of the lady so furiously contested, and by my heedlessness, which had prevented me from discovering the blunder. The view of the company was now to deceive each other; all declared the impossibility of going in search of the lady I had personated, in so dark and so stormy a night; especially as the road

was

was intricate, and hard to find. But as it appeared this was a feint; for the old gentleman, I suppose, considering that it would be difficult for him to steal a march as he was lodged in the enemy's quarter's, thought it better to relinquish his hopes, in order to disappoint the other. Accordingly he told him "he was convinced
" he only designed to bubble him, in lull-
" ing him into security, by agreeing with
" him in this point, and then setting forth
" after the fugitive when he imagined his
" easy dupe was fast asleep."

He acknowledged "he had entertained
" the same intention himself; but recol-
" lecting how difficult it would be to ex-
" ecute it, he was resolved to make it
" equally so to both; and would not go
" into bed the whole night, nor suffer his
" horses to be unharnessed, nor his ser-
" vants to enter the house, unless his
" Lordship would consent that their ser-
" vants should be so lodged together that
" they could not be ignorant of each
" other's motions." Besides which, he
" required that the keys of the house doors
" should be deposited in my hands, and that
" I should not deliver them up till they met
" next morning at day-break; promising
" then

“ then to carry me to the town from
“ whence I had by mistake been brought.”

The ill grace with which the young nobleman agreed to a proposal that it was to no purpose to reject, was a sufficient proof that the old gentleman had not mistaken his views. A supper was now served up, which I supposed was intended for a more amicable entertainment. Every one eat as their several disappointments would permit them, but none so little as myself. The fatigue and great agitation of spirits which I had that day endured, affected me very much ; and the uneasiness I imagined Lord Dorchester would be under on my account, with my uncertainty of finding him at the town where I was to be carried the next day, was an additional weight to my spirits. However, melancholy or ill humour made us appear much upon an equality ; not a word was uttered by one of the company ; the dumb shew of civility was scarcely kept up ; and as soon as supper was ended, the elderly pair desired to have the condition immediately complied with, and then to be shewn to their chamber.

The young Lord would have deferred the delivery of the keys, on pretence of
the

the earliness of the hour, but prudence, or positiveness, qualities to be expected in old age, rejected all his evasions, in a manner that shewed his folly in presuming to form expectations on the easy credulity of one who had arrived at the age of suspicion.

At last, yielding to necessity, he delivered the keys into my hands, at the same time intreating me to allow him an hour of my company; assuring me in a whisper, that, "could he obtain that favour, he should esteem the accident to which he should owe it as a very fortunate one." Adding, that "a glance of my charms must efface the impression which any other might have made on a heart that had never felt their superior excellence."

This bombast compliment was unanswerable to my grovelling genius; so I attempted not to reply, and found no inclination to grant his request; for the familiarity of behaviour which confounded and surprized me, when I took him for Lord Dorchester, appeared odious to me since I knew him to be another.

My room was close to that wherein the gentleman and lady lay; as soon as I got into it, I bolted my door, the better to secure
secure

secure the trust reposed in me, fearing lest any attempt might be made by the young Lord on the keys in my custody. Tho' I was not acquainted with the merits of the cause, yet I found myself inclined to the side of the parents; they had a natural right over their daughter; and might justly have demanded more duty from her, than, according to the appearances of the affair, they seemed to me to have received. They had, among the articles of agreement, stipulated for my lying near them, which secured me from molestation. Fatigue got the better of vexation, and gave me, perhaps, a quieter night than any of the family.

C H A P. XVI.

HAD not a habit of early rising taught me to awake at break of day, the noise in this house of confusion would have

——Broke the bands of sleep asunder,
And rous'd me, like a rattling peal of
thunder.

The

“ her dinner and supper too; and if I
“ had not been careless and foolish I might
“ now have been where I should be.”
Thus rebuffed, I resumed the silence, which
was never after broken by any of the com-
pany, except by the cough of the old
gentleman, who was somewhat phthysical.
When we arrived at the inn from which
I had been so strangely carried, the first
person I saw was Lord Dorchester, who I
afterwards understood, and then hoped,
was watching at the door. He rather
lifted than handed me out of the coach;
receiving me with an embrace, which I
frankly returned, overjoyed at being once
more restored to him.

My Lord led me into the inn, and with
looks of inexpressible delight repeated his
congratulations on my arrival. He told
me, that having waited at his friend’s
house long after the time he expected me
to call on him, he grew uneasy lest some
accident had befallen me, and came back
to the inn to learn the occasion of my de-
lay. He did not long remain in igno-
rance. He found a very handsome young
woman in the inn yard, almost frantick;
all the people gathered about her, while
she, insensible of the ridicule to which she
exposed

exposed herself, lamented her ill fortune, and uttered all the exclamations of despair. Though the young lady's features were altered by fear and anguish, yet my Lord recollected that he had been acquainted with her in London, where she was educated by an aunt, with whom she lived till her father, who, though a man of fortune, was vulgar in manners and low in understanding, gave her his servant for a mother-in-law.

The scene was changed: he was now reduced to a more abject servitude than his bride was in before. This woman insisted on her daughter-in-law's returning home; thinking her, while at a distance, more out of her power than was agreeable to her love for her new acquired dominion. Lord Dorchester had heard of this melancholy change in the young lady's way of life, and had pitied her, but was now alarmed by the apprehensions of some much greater distress. He enquired the cause of her distracted behaviour, and received for answer "that it was owing to
" another young lady's having by mistake
" gone in the chariot designed for her;"
by which means she was left without a
guide

guide to the place where she was to go; but the occasion of her being so very much distressed about it they could not tell, nor what she meant by continually exclaiming that "she was undone should she be discovered, and was the most miserable wretch upon earth."

My Lord asked who it was that had gone in the conveyance she so much regretted, when one of his servants perceiving him in the crowd, came up, and answered his question by telling him "it must be Miss Ophelia Lenox, for she was no where to be found, and one of the servants of the inn had confessed, that supposing it her equipage, he had informed her it was ready." Another belonging to the house soon confirmed this, by declaring "he saw me get into it, and had received orders from me to bid the servants follow directly."

My Lord was polite enough to tell me that he was now a fit companion for the disappointed lady, being almost as mad as she was; till his mind received some consolation by considering that the mistake could not last long, and that he might get such information from her as would enable him to overtake me. Up-
on

on this, he prevailed with her to go into a room, where he could more conveniently enquire into the affair, and she might with more decency indulge her grief.

The young lady frankly declared to him, that from the time she left London she had received the most cruel treatment from her mother in law; who not contented with the sufferings she could herself inflict, had frequently exasperated her father so much against her, that she had led a wretched life. The beginning of that summer, Lord _____ came into their neighbourhood on a visit; he soon distinguished her by his addresses, and, in the opportunities repeated visits gave him, had prevailed with her to fly from all the miseries inflicted on her, and commit herself to his protection. The manner of her flight was performed according to the plan they had agreed on; when in the middle of the execution I frustrated their scheme by my unlucky mistake.

Lord Dorchester told me, that out of a just sense of the duties a child owes to her parent, he endeavoured to persuade her against so great a breach of

hers; advising her to go to her aunt, and assuring her of his most earnest endeavours to prevail with her father to consent to her living there.

His care was not unavailing: the young lady consented; and he hired her a chariot, sending one of his servants to escort her to London. All the satisfaction he received was from having reclaimed her from disobedience; for she was so ignorant of what was to become of her after she got into Lord ——'s equipage (his servant being her guide) that she could not give the least account where I might be found.—However, after my Lord saw her set out towards London, he and his servants went forth on a fruitless search, till night and despair of success brought them back to the inn, with an intent of making a more exact search the following day.

Accordingly they pursued their purpose the next morning as soon as day appeared; but having been equally unsuccessful as the night before, he returned to the inn, still in hopes I might be again brought thither. Reduced to this expectation as his only resource, he was walking every way within sight of the inn, in the extreme

remest impatience, when his attention was awakened by the sound of two vehicles from a cross-road. Probability was now unnecessary; the smallest possibility is sufficient to flatter our expectations in any thing we ardently desire; my Lord's hopes were raised, and were not disappointed, for it was our equipages which had given rise to them.

C H A P. XVII.

AFTER I had performed my part in giving an account of all the consequences of my error, and made some severe reflections on my inadvertence; Lord Dorchester, finding that the young lady's father and mother were in the inn, left me, in order to perform the promise he had given of trying the force of his eloquence on a mind too insensible to afford him any certainty of success.

Above two hours passed in this conference, at the end of which he returned to me, and informed me that he had not only prevailed on the gentleman to for-
G 2 give

give his daughter's intentional disobedience, in consideration of her sincere repentance, and to give her leave to remain with her aunt; but had even obtained the permission under his hand, with a settlement on his daughter, while she continued there, to put it out of his wife's power to make him recall his promise.

I have related this affair as it was then told me; but I shall now give your ladyship an exact account of some circumstances, which were concealed from me till secrecy was of no longer use. What appeared plain enough to my undoubting ignorance, would seem obscure to those whose knowledge of the world leads them to see a deficiency in particulars.

This nobleman had not been long in the neighbourhood of this family, before he began to make his addressee to the young fugitive, and pretending to be unmarried, he feigned honourable views, inventing reasons for concealing it from her father. He at last prevailed with her to make her escape from her parents, and fly to him; promising to sanctify so rash a step by an immediate marriage.

These

These particulars she related to Lord Dorchester, who acquainted her with the deceit put upon her credulity; informing her, that the young nobleman was already married to a woman of rank equal to himself; but was too well known in the world for a debauched dissolute man.

After such a discovery, it was not difficult to convince her that his views were far different from what he pretended, and that marriage had been only made the lure to draw her into his power. As love had not extinguished her sense of virtue, little consideration was requisite to determine her to fly a man unworthy her confidence or esteem. But she durst not return home; therefore could easier resolve what course to avoid than what to take. In such grief of mind, she was incapable of thinking to any purpose; but Lord Dorchester's humanity led him to think for her, and, as I have said, he prevailed with her to go to her aunt, from whose goodness he encouraged her to hope a pardon for an action rather rash than criminal, to which she had been driven by the ill treatment of her mother-in-law as much as she had been en-

ticed by the man whom she loved too well to suspect.

As I had no notion a man could be guilty of so bad an action, I simply believed the story as my Lord related it; who, chusing rather to take advantage of my ignorance, than to place his hopes in corrupting the innocence of my mind, thought proper to conceal circumstances which must lead me into reflections that could not fail to alarm me on account of my own situation.

I had been so harrassed by the events of that and the preceding day, that my Lord would not attempt to proceed any farther till the next morning; by which time he hoped I might be a little refreshed.

The remainder of our journey was performed with safety and quiet; nothing uncommon happening to us the rest of the time. We arrived in London towards the close of the evening, and I was obliged to borrowed light for the gay appearance of the multitude of shops with which it is filled, and, by being much illuminated, they received double lustre. As all was new, all was remarkable to me; and at every thing we drove by "I
" wondered

“wondered with the foolish face of
“praise.” What then passed in my
mind has convinced me that want of ex-
perience makes us as meer children at six-
teen as at six years old. Every gewgaw
charmed me; every tawdry shop amazed
me. I spoke only in exclamations; every
look stared astonishment. The vivacity
of my sentiments made my folly the
more conspicuous; but it was at last
curbed by observing how much my Lord
was diverted with my behaviour. I wished
him all possible entertainment on any
other subject; but my pride would not
suffer me to continue the object of his
mirth. With much difficulty, I endea-
voured to conceal my emotions by si-
lence; but I found that my eyes spoke
them as strongly as my words; and my
Lord shewed me to how little purpose
a person will pretend to act the hypocrite
“whose thoughts are legible in the
“eyes.” He not only saw what my si-
lence would have concealed, but the rea-
son why I wished to do it; and, to gra-
tify my pride, said all that could serve to
convince me that “ignorance was no
“reproach to those who had not the
“means of learning; all we received from

were so clamourous under my chamber windows, as must have roused even Somnus himself. My fright was so great, that I found myself at the window before I was sensible I had left my bed; the noise naturally drew me thither, in order to discover the occasion of it: the crowd I beheld increased my fears to a height that rendered me motionless; but I was soon relieved by seeing them move down the street till they were lost both to my sight and hearing.

When the danger was past which I imagined had threatened me, I endeavoured to compose my spirits and return to my bed; but rest was no longer to be found there; the hour was come for the return of all my gay neighbours to their houses, which was proclaimed with a noise that could not fail of disturbing the sober part of the neighbourhood. The peculiarity of a footman's rap startled me very much; I at first fancied some strange disastrous distress must be the occasion of so great a noise, but on more exact observation, and hearing exactly the same sort of knocking at different doors, I began to discover an art in
it

it ill suited to any such cause. Having no notion of any other end in knocking at a door than to make one's self heard, I could not suppose these flourishes were used for so plain and simple an intent; and at last convinced myself that it must be one of the pleasures of a people whom I thought capricious enough to be capable of any thing that was ridiculous. This led me to some very severe reflections on the hearts of those who could indulge themselves in so foolish an amusement, at a time of night when they must give great disturbance to persons who kept regular hours, and might prove very hurtful to the sick. I then had recourse to all my learning; and, with the ignorance of many censorious politicians, despised the legislature which admitted such teizing follies; and by drawing comparisons between this neglect of order, and the accounts I had read of the governments of some other kingdoms, found, in the disturbance of my rest, good reason to quarrel with our constitution: many of those who enveigh most strongly against it, perhaps cannot assign a better. But as politics, though enlivened by anger
and

and censure, will, without opposition, become languid and dull, my wife and severe reflections grew composing, and I again fell into a sweet slumber. Sleep now seemed inclined to treat me like a stranger, not with the careless dull manner of an old acquaintance, letting me be lost in insensibility; but sparing no endeavours for my entertainment, represented to me the cottage which had so long sheltered my youth, gave me to my beloved aunt's embraces, whose joy was beyond utterance, and to be equalled only by my own; Lord Dorchester shewing by his smiles the pleasure he received from our transports, and declaring himself rewarded by the satisfaction we enjoyed for the journey he had taken to restore me to her, begged leave to remain a constant spectator of our mutual affection. In this pleasing deception was I entranced, only to be more afflicted by this unquiet town; for all the sweet delusion was at once put to flight by a rap at my door with a club, as if designing to break it open, accompanied with a hollow voice, which though loud was unintelligible to me.

I believe

I believe I was the more frightened for the quiet I had in imagination enjoyed ; all I had hitherto felt was little to my present terror. I ran to my maid's room, which was next to mine, and by catching hold of her, awaked her. The fear impressed on my countenance, communicated itself to her mind ; she was little able to inspire me with any courage, till I made her understand the cause of my fear, by desiring her to listen to the dreadful voice which had alarmed me, but was now gone past my house, and accompanying the forceable attacks the club was making on other doors. It was with difficulty that respect, assisted with a little peevishness at being so unnecessarily disturbed, restrained her from laughing at my fears ; but with all the civil gravity she could assume, she informed me of the nature of the grievance, and made me listen to the words which had appeared unintelligible to me, till I understood enough to be convinced that they concerned only the hour of the night, and the weather. I had not been inclined to believe this on her word, suspecting she meant only to deceive me into a quiet state of mind ; and thought her invention very poor, if it could furnish
her

her with nothing better than so ridiculous a pretence, as that people should pay money to be told the hour and the state of the weather, which, if they were asleep, could not be of any consequence to them, and if they were awake they might learn with less clamour. My ears, and some better reasons she gave me for the institution of watchmen, at last convinced me, and I left her to finish her night's rest, but not to mend mine, for the repetition of the past noises, and the variety of new ones which succeeded them, soon overcame my hopes of sleep, and I quit-
ted all endeavours after it with my bed, spending the rest of the night in reading, and meditation.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVIII.

I HAD long been well acquainted with the first dawns of day ; but was now, for the first time, deprived of the sight of the rising sun, when clouds did not conceal it from human eyes. It was an object that always delighted me ; nor had I been accustomed to behold the morning light with heavy eye-lids and fatigued spirits, which want of sleep now made me experience ; but as the desire of looking on a more agreeable scene than a narrow street, had led me into the dining-room, from whence I had the view of the park ; weariness of body and mind tempted me to lie down on a sofa, which made part of the furniture of the room ; and here my situation being much quieter, I enjoyed a little rest, which sufficiently refreshed me.

The sight of a great town cannot but amuse a girl bred in solitude : the concourse of people in the streets was a strange appearance ; all the world seemed abroad. I fancied the people were at once seized with an inability of sitting still. But tho' all

all I saw excited my wonder, yet it did not sufficiently engage my attention to prevent my growing impatient for Lord Dorchester's company. I had long been accustomed to see him every hour; to pass a whole day absent from him was misery. I watched at the window in painful expectation of his arrival, till evening robbed me of the power of distinguishing objects. In this uneasy state of mind I sometimes feared some accident had befallen him, or that he was sick; at others, I apprehended a still greater evil, that the want of desire, not the want of power to visit me, occasioned his long absence. This thought brought me a relief from tears, that enabled me to combat the evils my imagination had raised; but before seven o'clock I had a better consolation, for at last Lord Dorchester's coach stopped at my door.

My spirits were so much sunk with the pains of impatience that I could not receive him with that joy in my countenance which the pleasure he shewed in seeing me deserved. He flew up stairs with such rapidity, that there was not a moment's space between the stopping of his
his

his coach at the door and his entering the dining room.

He approached me with inexpressible tenderneſs, complaining of the tediousneſs of every minute of his abſence, and of the cruel circumſtances which had deprived him of a poſſibility of coming to me till then.

Having inſolence enough to be piqued at not ſeeing him earlier in the day, I replied, “ that it muſt be almoſt impoſſible
“ to many people to deprive themſelves
“ of amuſements and good company,
“ without they had a ſtronger inducement
“ than a charitable deſire of relieving the
“ ſolitude and enlivening the mind of
“ one who could return them no enter-
“ tainment to recompence them for the
“ ſacrifice they made to their humanity;
“ and as I preferred his happineſs to my
“ own, I was glad he had not endeavoured
“ at ſo difficult a taſk.” My eyes, I be-
lieve, expreſſed ſome reſentment; but they
were not free from gathering tears, which
ſhewed my grief was at leaſt equal to my
anger. He, in return, reproached me
for my inhumanity in giving him ſuch a
reception. “ Was the pleaſure,” he ſaid,
“ which he had been longing for all day,
“ turned

“turned into the mortification of finding me offended with him for the most cruel disappointment he had ever experienced?” He protested that “he had never so ardently wished for my company; and was incapable of receiving pleasure from any thing else.” He then related the vexatious circumstances by which he had been prevented from coming sooner, gave me such strong assurances of his affection by words, and so much stronger still in the silent language of his eyes, that I could not resist such testimony: the most obstinate incredulity could not stand before the tenderness so visible in his expressive countenance.

The perverse temper in which Lord Dorchester had found me, served the more to recommend the good humour that succeeded it; for want of a little interruption it had begun to appear an habitual easiness; and that, though always convenient, must cease to be meritorious when it is discovered to be involuntary. Besides, my peevishness shewed him as well as myself, how necessary his company was to my happiness; a circumstance that could not but be agreeable to him, and could not be painful to me while every wish was grati-

gratified by his presence; and the charms of his conversation left no room for reflection.

We both complained of having been so long separated; and the joy we shewed in each other's company proved that neither had exaggerated in the description of what each had suffered for want of it: conscious of no motive that required concealment, and ignorant of the customs of the world, I saw no reason for expatiating less upon my uneasiness on that subject than on any other. I knew not that the world would have allowed me to have grieved for the loss of a parrot, to have been wretched at missing a masquerade, miserable at being deprived of the sight of a new opera, or distressed to the last degree at being disappointed of the principal part of the company at an approaching drum; but would never have forgiven me for declaring my regret for the loss of the most agreeable companion that society could afford me, if that companion happened not to be of my own sex. I by no means apprehended, that to declare I was pleased with the conversation, and touched with the affection
of

of one tenderly attached to me, was an offence to decency, if the person did not wear the same sort of dress as myself. What my heart innocently felt, I thought my tongue might unreprouchably utter; and accordingly, in the fulness of my heart, spoke as frankly as my Lord, and with all the eloquent warmth of truth, describing the painful sensations and melancholy reflections to which his absence had given rise, as well as the satisfaction in their being at an end, which recompensed me for all the past sufferings. Blessings, by long possession grow so familiar, that we at last become insensible of their worth, though they influence our whole lives, and constitute our felicity. We scarcely reflect on the use of the sun, unless some withering plantation, that has been deprived of his kindly rays, reminds us how necessary he is to all existence.

We knew not how to part again, since when once asunder it was in the power of perverse circumstances to keep us so; and much of the night was spent before Lord Dorchester could prevail on himself to leave me.

C H A P. XIX.

I HAD not been many days in London before Lord Dorchester desired I would permit him to introduce me to Lady Palestine, a relation of his, whose house was the rendezvous of all the polite people in town, and where he assured me I should be well entertained.

The vivacity of my temper made me incline to novelty and amusement, therefore I readily acquiesced. A day was fixed, and I was dressed with the utmost elegance, and at no inconsiderable expence. As fashion, not fancy, was to be my guide, I left the care of adorning my person to my maid, who exhausted her art; and I dare say I should have beheld the effects of her labours with some complacency, had I not been apprehensive of being gazed at for the uncommonness of my education; an impertinence by which I had sufficiently suffered on my first arrival at Lord Dorchester's; and indeed, in my road to it these fears made me more disposed to find faults than beauties in my person. But my vanity taking alarm at
this

this sudden fit of humility, brought Lord Dorchester to its aid, who so strengthened its party, that I promised with pretty good courage to follow him to Lady Palestine's, where he was to go before in order to be in readiness to introduce me.

Nothing had so much contributed to make me easy as his Lordship's assurances that no one but Lady Palestine knew any thing of me, nor would ever learn from her more than that I was a young woman to whom he was guardian; and therefore I had no reason to apprehend any observation but what my person excited; and he assured me that my dress and air were so conformable to those of the rest of the world, that there was no room to suspect I had ever been secluded from it.

My Lord did not explain to me what was generally understood by the word guardian; but mentioning it as a common thing, had I conceived any doubts about the propriety of my situation, he would thereby have removed them: but I was far from imagining that being under the care of a gentleman, however young and agreeable he might be, was any indecorum. I did not suspect any one of in-

clining

clining to a vice, of whose existence I was totally ignorant; and if I had been in that particular better informed, I should have thought nothing so great a security as being under a man's peculiar care and protection. Some knowledge of the world was necessary to make me believe any one could wish to injure another; long experience only convinced me that a man could think of injuring one whom he was bound by every tie of real honour and humanity to defend; nor could less have taught me that men who act with the strictest integrity to their own sex, should imagine themselves less obliged to do so by ours, when they acknowledged that Nature, by giving us greater gentleness of mind, and more delicacy of body, makes us dependant on them; which custom has, through policy, not only confirmed but increased.

But it is time to end reflections, which will be thought the dregs of my reclusé education, and despised as vulgar and puritannical by the free and polite world, who are above such low restraints as I may be willing to recommend; I shall therefore proceed with my story.

With

With some palpitation of heart, I went to Lady Palestine: I knew she was to have company; and the expectation of seeing, perhaps, a dozen of people together, discomposed that awkward bashfulness which was the consequence of the solitude I had lived in; but the flutter of my spirits was turned into a real terror on the servants throwing open the door of the first room, which exposed to my view such a concourse of people as I had never seen, nor assembled together in imagination. I turned my back upon them; and fear being given as the best defence to the weaker part of the creation, was determined to run down stairs as fast as I could; but Lord Dorchester, who waited just by the door, though in my fright I had overlooked him, caught hold of my hand, and then endeavoured to stop me by giving me courage to encounter the eyes of so large a company: he lavished upon me that best cordial to drooping vanity, flattery, and undertook to persuade me to endure to be looked at, by assuring me that “ I
“ must be the object of the admiration
“ of every one who beheld me; and that
“ if I found myself more gazed at than
“ the rest of the company, I might be
“ certain

“certain it was from being more admired.” This argument has reconciled many women to universal observation; but with one educated as I had been, bashfulness must be proof against it; however, he urged one motive that inspired me with courage to follow him up the room, which was shewing me how much I should oblige him by doing so. To give him pleasure I could have performed more dangerous adventures, tho’ the passing thro’ such multitudes appeared very tremendous.

When Lady Palestine saw me, she came towards us, and received me in the most obliging manner; spoke in the highest strain in praise of my person, and thanked my Lord for giving her the pleasure of my acquaintance. This flow of politeness I received awkwardly enough; I was at that time, by confusion, rendered as incapable as I was unqualified by nature for returning such compliments; expressions of good-will, that I knew were dictated by truth, my heart could acknowledge, and therefore my tongue could repay, but her ladyship soared above my humble conceptions.

As the largeness of the assembly made the sphere of Lady Palestine's care and attention very extensive, she could not devote any great portion of her time to one person; therefore I had sufficient leisure to indulge my curiosity by observing the company; for tho' my Lord did not go to any great distance from me, yet he was so engaged in conversation with all the people around him, that he did not interrupt my observations. There was something so affectionate in the address of most of the company to each other, that I was happy to find the people among whom fortune had thrown me were so inclined to friendship. I conceived a very favourable impression of the whole society, but was particularly pleased with one lady, for her lively and affectionate expressions of joy at meeting with another; and found myself so attracted by the amiable disposition I thought I discovered in her, that when she left that dear friend, I could not forbear following her to the next: but how was I surprized to hear her, after practising the same address, complain of the penance she had undergone, in being obliged to suffer, for a whole quarter of an hour, the conversation of the
lady

lady she had left with all the tokens of regret. A secret horror at such falshood took place of my beginning attachment, and I flew from her as from a wild beast ; I believe too with a like terror in my countenance ; for Lord Dorchester, whose eyes were always upon me, enquired the cause. The manner in which I related it shewed how much it affected me, and I was amazed to see him smile at it. I could not forbear asking him “ why he chose
“ to associate me with so vile a set of peo-
“ ple ; for surely they would scruple no
“ crime who could unnecessarily be guil-
“ ty of such flagrant falshoods.” Nor was I better contented when he told me these were expressions used by every one, but believed by no body ; meer words of course. This made no difference in my opinion, but by giving me reason to add the charge of absurdity, in thus directing the only end of speech to the crime of insincerity ; it seemed to me a method of ranking ourselves with the dumb part of the creation, in spite of nature ; all the distinction was, that those nature made so, could not pronounce words, and the others rendered themselves so by uttering no meaning. I could not possibly allow

that the obligation of joining in society required any more of us, than to bury our dislikes in silence; to conceal a truth, which, if known, may hurt, and can be of no service, may be a duty, but to pretend an affection we do not feel, I esteemed criminal; and to express what we know will not, and what we did not intend should be believed, appeared to me an excessive folly. The disgust this little incident gave me, made me attend less to the conversation, and consequently more to the persons of the company; a change that was not at all to my ease; for I now found I had every one's eyes upon me; where-ever I placed myself I was the principal object; to move was to little purpose; the eyes might be different, but they were still alike fixed on me. The gentlemen were more particularly troublesome in this respect: if I sat down in hopes of hiding myself, it only drew them nearer, lest any one should screen me from their sight. My uneasiness was visible in my countenance; for I heard one gentleman say to three or four others, "come away, it is cruel to put any one so much out of countenance." "That may be," answered another, "but it would be more
" cruel

“cruel to myself to comply with a bashfulness that adorns her.”

All the flattery with which Lord Dorchester had endeavoured to arm me against the effects of such general observations, had now no longer power over my mind ; I could not persuade myself that I attracted the notice of the company by any thing but a strangeness in my air and manner ; and I was the more convinced of it by the contemptuous glances of many young ladies.

My Lord had informed me, that some ill-natured and some ill-judging people would despise others for their unavoidable ignorance of the follies of the world, tho’ the knowledge of them could have no good tendency. These signs of undeserved contempt gave me no favourable impression of the ladies ; yet I liked them better than the rest of the company : they looked less pleased indeed, but then they looked less at me, and that fully recompensed me for their scorn.

I at last got Lord Dorchester to approve my going home, and he immediately followed me, but found me so much humbled that I was quite dull. To cure me of my humility was therefore much his interest ;

terest; and he laboured hard to persuade me into the belief he had before tried to inspire; and to convince me, desired I would another time observe the difference between my complexion and those of the rest of the ladies. I was not so humble as to have overlooked that circumstance; I had perceived a great deadness in the best complexions in the room; and as I did not suppose there could be any thing very particular in mine, fancied it a strange effect of the light, till various opportunities shewed me the contrary. This advantage I could never attribute to any thing but having always kept such early hours as nature seems to have designed, having lived continually in the air, tho' not much exposed to the sun, and on so very spare a diet, as by giving me the purest blood imaginable, might communicate an extraordinary clearness to my skin.

I soon forgot the uneasiness I had undergone; Lord Dorchester's conversation banished every painful thought; and the pleasure he seemed to have received from my appearance, recompensed me for what I had suffered for it.

Lady Palestine returned my visit the next morning; and invited Lord Dorchester and myself

myself to dine with her the day following, without any other company. She was so easy in her conversation, and courted my acquaintance so politely, that, in a few days, we became what the world calls intimate; that is, we saw each other often, and conversed with freedom and cheerfulness. I found no inclination to a real attachment to her; she was rather amusing than engaging; she had a good deal of wit, but dissipation had robbed her of her judgment. She was the life of a circle, but a dull companion *tête à tête*; and, as if she was sensible of this, she avoided them as much as possible, and delighted in a crowd. Her greatest happiness was a general acquaintance; a blessing to which she had attained.

C H A P. XX.

YOUR ladyship perhaps begins to wonder that Lord Dorchester, with the views which you will suppose he had, would introduce me to a woman of fashion, where I might gain a knowledge of the world ; which, if it did not corrupt me, might frustrate his designs by discovering them to me. That I may not leave this improbability on your mind till the course of my narration clears it up, I will venture the discovery, and inform you now, of what I long remained ignorant : for the manner in which I at last came by the knowledge, you must wait till the course of my story leads me to it.

Lady Palestine, I have already said, was a woman of wit, and of considerable rank ; but her fortune was by no means equal to her splendid way of life. At fifteen she was married to an old man, who, as he did not gain her affections, could not greatly influence the conduct of a woman who had been better instructed in politeness

politeness than in prudence. Lord Palestine's fondness made her mistress of herself from the day of her marriage.

The natural vivacity of her temper, and the dislike to a companion of an age so ill suited to her own, led her into all the dissipations which the gay world affords: her beauty, with the other favourable circumstances of her situation, attracted the other sex; no woman had more admirers; naturally vain and lively, all received encouragement, and few who strongly attached themselves to her could complain of her cruelty; however, as my Lord was pleased, the world was too obliging to take offence. The good-natured, in silence pitied her errors; the censorious, expecting a speedy rupture from her bad conduct, did not think mere anticipation worthy the attention of persons accustomed to the more ingenious exercise of invention; and as the consequences they expected from her irregularity made her less the object of their envy than women of a less blameable behaviour, they thought her an unworthy subject of discourse, and neglected her. Every one indeed called her imprudent, but were not the less desirous of her acquaintance,

since she gave entertainments, had great drums, and every kind of diversion at her house. Aftrea, with all her virtue, were she now to come upon earth, could not attract such multitudes as a card table. People censure the pleasures only of those who will not impart to others the means of being pleased. If a woman has assurance enough not to be ashamed of infamy, and a fortune to afford every fashionable expence, the world may blame her ill conduct, but it will not desert her; while they censure her behaviour they will court her acquaintance. I have learnt, that nothing is a crime in polite circles but poverty and prudence. A person who cannot contribute to the follies of others, may perhaps be pardoned if she only complies with them; but if she attempts to be rational, she must not hope for forgiveness.

It is supposed that Lord Palestine at last grew less infatuated than he had been; for at his death, which happened when his lady was about twenty-five years of age, he left her little more than her jointure of 600*l.* per annum, and his London house, furniture, and jewels. This appeared to a woman of her Ladyship's spirit,

spirit, a poor despicable pittance; it would have obliged her to have lessened her pleasures; and if she had a proper sense of the consequences of retrenching, it must be allowed a serious consideration, since the splendor in which she had hitherto lived had been the only means of preserving her from contempt and neglect.

She could find but one resource against the evils that threatened her: as she was young, and in high reputation for her wit and beauty, she thought it not impossible for once to reconcile pleasure and interest, and accordingly made those for whom she relinquished the esteem of mankind, give her the means of purchasing their civility and outward respect. She was too engaging to fail of success in this point: her wit and politeness for a long time excused the decay of her beauty; and supplying by art the depredations of time, she was not destitute of admirers even when I was introduced to her acquaintance, though she was then above fifty years old; fashion was a charm of which age had not robbed her, and continued to attract many years after I knew her. But as this was not quite so
universal

universal a magnet as youth and beauty, she found the effects in a diminution of lovers, and therefore was not averse to receiving advantage from the love of which she was not the object.

Lord Dorchester had been one of her train, more from fashion and indolence than from inclination; and as he knew money had no more charms for her than love, he made little scruple of acquainting her with his passion for me, and of the means he intended to pursue. He wished to have me introduced into the world, as he thought it might both improve and amuse me; he knew not how to do this without running a hazard of my learning more of it than was consistent with his scheme, but by the means of some body who could concur with him in the execution, and yet was on such a footing in the world that her acquaintance would not place me in a bad light; for his Lordship did not chuse that any person should have reason to think ill of me but himself. No one could be so proper for this purpose as Lady Palestine. She knew my Lord's generosity too well to decline the office, and complied with
the

the plan he directed, though she disapproved it.

She told Lord Dorchester, that “ in
“ her opinion he would be more certain
“ of success by making me acquainted
“ with all the customs of mankind; by
“ treating *vulgar prejudices* as they de-
“ served; and shewing me how much
“ more happy they were who set them-
“ selves above such a *low way of thinking*,
“ than those *narrow minded people* who
“ were governed by them.” She offered
“ to assist him in this manner, which she
“ esteemed much the best.” But his
Lordship differed in opinion. He replied,
“ that what she said might be true, had I
“ been educated in as great ignorance of
“ vice and virtue as of the customs of
“ mankind; but that, on the contrary, I
“ was as much better acquainted with the
“ one, as I was less so with the other,
“ than those who are bred in the world.
“ That he was convinced I should detest
“ him, was I to perceive his principles
“ were less pure than my own; whereas
“ he now had reason to believe he had
“ made some impression on my heart;
“ and that as I was free from suspicion,
“ he could not but suppose he should find
“ oppor-

“ opportunities from my innocence and
“ love which he might improve ; and that
“ all the effects he wished from intro-
“ ducing me into the world, was, the
“ dissipating my thoughts, left too much
“ reflection might teach me some guard
“ against him.”

Lady Palestine had so great a sense of female frailty, she could not think Lord Dorchester's scheme absolutely impracticable, and readily agreed to obey his commands ; though an intimacy with me was not very desirable, as it could not be cultivated in a crowd. A gay party at supper was her greatest pleasure ; but in them I might have seen more of the world than was thought advisable ; especially as conversation was apt to take a free turn at her Ladyship's house. However she sacrificed a few hours to my Lord and me, excluding others. At her largest assemblies I was judged safe enough : for tho' I there fell into conversation with many people, especially the gentlemen, for they were most watchful for opportunities of speaking to me, and I was not more reserved to them than to my own sex, yet decorum secured me from the freedom of conversation to which her Ladyship admitted

mitted them. She was likewise graciously pleased to carry me to public places.

The first I appeared at was a play. No one was admitted into the box to us but Lord Dorchester, who excluded all others, that I might not confine the emotions so new a sight would raise in me. My Lord had often read to me some of Shakespear's historical plays, and it was to one of these he carried me, never chusing I should go to any others; and he gave me so poor a character of the performances of many of the other dramatic poets, that I never felt a desire of seeing them, though by the play-bills I found there was great variety.

Had my Lord's only view been my entertainment, in this he would have acted judiciously; I have been convinced by observation that plays and novels vitiate the taste: I allow many of them to be extremely diverting, some very fine; but by the multiplicity of events, mixed with a good deal of the marvellous, they learn the mind a dissipation even in reading. The simple chain of facts in history, appear ill to a person used to wonder; as moral truths and sound reason do to one who has been accustomed to the turns and quibbles of false wit, the enchanting jingle

gle of rhyme, or the pompous sound of high-flown metaphors.

Not that I would exclude the reading of such authors as I mention. I am not insensible to the charms of poetry; perhaps was I more so I might not think it so unfit for young people. But I look upon it as dangerous, before maturity has fixed some degree of taste, some steadiness of thought and principle, as it is apt to render them ever after uninclined to such studies as are useful, and of more lasting entertainment. In short, I esteem such reading as bad for the mind as high meats are for the stomach; they may create a false appetite, but will pall a true one, and make all proper food appear insipid, till by long use even they grow tiresome, and the true appetite being vitiated, all alike disgust.

The very little I heard of such performances pleased me for the time; but being seldom, and of short duration, they did not dwell enough on my mind to lead me into any comparison between the entertainment they afforded me and what I received from my common studies; they amused without dissipating: Lord Dorchester dispensed them as a cordial to my spirits,

spirits, when he perceived them inclined to suffer from the melancholy reflections which would occur too frequently, as my aunt could not be long out of my thoughts. However, greatly as I had been entertained by the plays I had heard, there was something so much more lively in the representation of them on the theatre, as at first delighted me extremely. I had heard many of the speeches much more to advantage when my Lord read them; but in the acting the whole received such an air of truth, that I could scarcely disbelieve a fact in it. This made my agitations almost as strange as if I had been the spectator of a real tragedy. The play was Macbeth, and Lord Dorchester and Lady Palestine were sufficiently taken up in observing the passions impressed on my countenance. They told me I might more properly be said to act the play, than some of the persons on the stage. Indeed I believe I was more fatigued with my part of the representation; for when it was over, I found my mind quite weary with the agitation it had been in. Anger was one of the passions that had been excited; for I could not bear with patience
the

the noises that were sometimes made ; and was so intirely engaged that I could not utter a rational sentence on any other subject, even between the acts : nor did the change of scene change my ideas ; for after I went home they continued as much fixed on the play as during the representation ; and it was almost with difficulty they at last gave place to sleep.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

LADY Palestine invited me the next day to a private party of a few friends. I would modestly have declined the invitation; for not being a general friend to the company, I felt myself unworthy of a place among them, and expressed a fear of being a troublesome restraint on their conversation. She smiled at this notion, but insisted on my coming. I could not help anticipating, in my imagination, the pleasure I should receive from the variety of conversation so noble and extensive a union must afford, where each person could venture to declare every thought, and give vent even to their follies. For I had been taught by my Lord the necessity of being guarded in what we say before any but most intimate friends, and to this I attributed the extreme triflingness of all the conversation at which I had been present.

I went to Lady Palestine's at the appointed time; and though there were fewer people than I had ever seen when she admitted company, yet I was inclined
to

to envy her so many select friends, for there was about twenty in number.

My expectation being raised, I was all attention; but, to my great surprize, the conversation extended no farther than the weather; and their engagements, during the interval between their arrival and their being properly disposed to their separate tables; for I then learnt, that even in *friendly* societies cards were a necessary ingredient.

Not doubting but conversation would share their time, I by turns attended every table, but found that the game was the only topic. One held the *cruellest* cards, another the *pleasanteſt* hand: those who won most part of the night, no sooner seemed to be threatened with a reverse of fortune, than they declared "there was no playing against Lady such a one, she always won." Another equally unsuccessful added, "*some people* had strange good luck; for her part, she found her cards would sometimes be bad, but *some people* could make them win, whether they were bad or good." The winners enjoyed their good fortune in silence, or told you how much they had lost the night before. When it grew late, this select

select society broke up ; and shewing that cards, not friendship, had drawn them together, withdrew as soon as they arose from the table ; some exulting with the reflection of having won their friends' money, others out of humour at having lost their own ; but none, I believe, so disappointed as myself, who had imagined a far different entertainment ; not having then learnt, that a party which does not, by its numbers, deserve to be honoured with the name of a drum, is entitled a private party of a few friends ; I suppose by way of expressing its *insignificance*.

As I frequently met the same company at Lady Palestine's, I soon became acquainted with many of them, especially of the other sex, none of whom pleased me so well as Sir Charles Lisdale. His person had no particular charms ; he was genteel, and looked like a man of fashion, otherwise plain enough ; but he was extremely lively, had a great deal of wit and politeness, and shewed a particular regard for me, by great attention, respect, and a constant attendance ; for he followed me about like my shadow, and when I was present appeared insensible to every

every person in company ; his eyes seemed only given him to look at me, and his ears to hear no words but what I uttered ; his whole conversation was directed to me.

Ought I to be ashamed of owning that I was pleased with Sir Charles's behaviour ? Does it shew a spirit of coquetry to like to be approved ? Surely not. I thought not of love, nor considered him as a lover ; but my bashfulness found great relief from perceiving him well disposed to be pleased with what I said : his partiality made me less careful in weighing my words, and this ease rendered his conversation particularly agreeable to me. There is great satisfaction in having the liberty of talking nonsense, without incurring the contempt of our hearers ; and perhaps people never appear to more advantage than when they dare give the reins to their imagination and vivacity and leave to others the care of being wise.

Another merit in Sir Charles Lisdale was, that he did not surfeit me with compliments, and when he made me any, there was always an elegance and variety in them ; a circumstance, of which the conversation

conversation of many of his sex could not boast. Their fulsome flattery disgusted me; I could not listen to people who had foresworn all truth. Besides, my pride was offended in their supposing me so weak as to believe what they said, and endeavouring to render themselves agreeable by addressing my vanity instead of my reason, till I observed that they treated others a good deal in the same manner; for that they did not talk in quite so high a strain to them, I imagined was from expecting less credulity in persons of more mature years, and not so new to the world, as they must perceive I was. But Sir Charles taught me to divert myself with these ridiculous compliments; and after a time I began to find amusement in their folly.

I had one or two dangles, who were well stricken in years, and afforded me more entertainment than any; they deified me with so much nonsense and bombast, that I sometimes could scarcely understand them; and they would beg for a smile so much like a street beggar for an alms, that my generosity generally exceeded their demands, for I was terribly apt to give them an ungrateful laugh instead of
a gracious

a gracious simper, which discomposed their tempers still more than my features, and excited a resentment that was not soon cooled. However, whether languishing or angry, these antient gentlemen were less disagreeable to me than many young ones, whose self-satisfied air was more odious than their nonsense. They seemed so sure of pleasing, that they could not but offend. We cannot well endure people who demand our approbation as their due, and look as if they would bully us into a liking. A lover, who would succeed, should not behave like a highwayman, and attempt to obtain our hearts, as he would our purses, by only crying, deliver. They should consider, that as all the fire of assurance they can put into their eyes will not make them so dangerous as a pistol, they may with less hazard be resisted. They should at least accept our hearts as a favour; there is a pleasure in obliging, which makes us love those who give us an opportunity of exerting that power.

I could perceive that Lord Dorchester and Sir Charles Lisdale did not greatly like each other. Sir Charles, I imagined, might be actuated by envy, which I
found

found was a common vice in this country. It seemed strange to me, that any one should envy when they might imitate, and thereby not only remove the superiority that renders them uneasy, but love the other whose example led them into so happy a path. No person afflicted with an envious disposition can be ever happy; our connexions with others make us suffer by their ill qualities; how unfortunate must we then be if we feel pain from their good ones.

Lord Dorchester was so superior to Sir Charles, that I could not suspect him of the same vice; nor indeed did I believe him capable of it, could he have met with one superior to himself. But the last reason I should have assigned for his dislike was jealousy; and therefore as I had supposed he had conceived some unjust prejudice, I laboured to remove it by giving Sir Charles the praises I thought his due, and wondered that the more I spoke in his favour the more averse my Lord seemed to him. This was very unlike his usual politeness, which led him to see charms in every thing I approved. As he gave me no reason for his aversion, I was sometimes almost angry, and

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could not forbear telling him he was very unjust.

I found that I should have liked Sir Charles still better if my Lord's taste had concurred with mine. I could not but think mine was bad, since his would not give a sanction to it; and if Sir Charles had not been too assiduous to leave it in my power, I believe I should have declined his acquaintance; so much less agreeable was it rendered by my Lord's disapprobation. But this could not be done without incivility to Sir Charles; and not imagining it gave my Lord any uneasiness, I continued to converse with him, which I could not do without great pleasure to myself.

My Lord, at last, grew thoughtful and melancholy; he saw me seldomer, and often when he was with me would be silent, or converse with little connection or cheerfulness. If I expressed an uneasiness at a change of temper, which I attributed to sickness, he would make answer, "that I could not possibly be
" concerned about him; but as he had
" no merit but love to engage my heart,
" he could not complain if I did not
" give him what he had no good title
" to."

“ to.” If I exerted all the eloquence of tenderness to assure him of my affection, and of my anxiety for his health, he would sometimes appear revived, and tell me, that “ if I really had any regard for him, he was well and happy.” He would, perhaps, appear chearful for some hours after; but if he left me in that happier state of mind, when we next met the air of melancholy would be returned.

C H A P. XXII.

WHILE Lord Dorcheſter, and conſequently his Ophelia, continued in this ſtate of uneaſineſs, Lady Paleſtine deſired me to go with her to an opera. As home became leſs agreeable, diſſipation grew more ſo, and I accepted her invitation with pleaſure. I had a good ear for muſick; and my Lord had given me the beſt maſters to improve it, though I had not yet made any great proficiency, except in ſinging; for in that branch I had leſs to learn, nature having given me a voice, that your ladyſhip (as well as many others, whom I muſt have allowed excellent judges, even if they had not flattered me) has often ſaid, did not require the help of art. As I was qualified to be entertained, it is not ſtrange that I was ſo at a time when operas were in their higheſt perfection. Faſhion had no occaſion to aſſiſt the muſic towards delighting me; but as I was a ſtranger to affectation, extacies were not the conſequences of my being exceſſively pleaſed, and, therefore, I did not underſtand them in others.

My

My attention was interrupted by seeing a lady who sat next me in a most languishing condition; I thought her at her last gasp, and did not doubt but she was going into a fainting fit. The house being extremely full, was very hot; to this I attributed her disorder, in which she seemed to have many companions; but as she appeared in the greatest extremity, she was the properest object of my care. Accordingly, in a flutter of haste I applied my smelling-bottle to her nose, fearing the least delay might find her past recovery. The bottle was filled with very strong salts, and I was rejoiced to see their speedy effect; for she recovered in an instant, and opened her eyes with a great start, and a look of amazement, which might be expected from their sudden operation. But I was extremely surprized, that instead of thanking me for my care and compassion, she looked excessively angry, and, in a most uncivil manner and harsh voice, asked me, what I meant by such impertinence? she then gave vent to her rage in such a torrent of words, as raised my opinion of my salts, for having so immediately given such great strength of spirits to one before expiring,

I 3

though

though the effect was not very agreeable ; for she did not leave me a possibility of explaining my good intention, nor should I have had time to recover my surprize, if the salts had not taken a new turn, throwing her into a violent fit of sneezing, which made very unlucky breaks in her discourse, and thereby increased her anger. But “ music has charms to sooth a savage breast,” as I found, for her favourite singer coming on the stage, her wrath subsided ; and instead of the words, impertinent, insolent, &c. &c. she could utter none but oh the charmer ! the dear creature ! ravishing ! enchanting ! and all that our language affords to the same purpose, with a mixture of *caro, carissimo* ! Her resentment was now buried in admiration, and all her senses absorbed by that of hearing.

While she was thus engaged, Sir Charles informed me, that extacy of pleasure, not extremity of pain, occasioned all those languishments which had excited my compassion, and that her anger arose from my having interrupted her raptures, and, as she suspected, ridiculed them by that action. I think my ignorance never raised so many blushes in me as on this occasion ;

occasion; I was really overcome with shame at my mistake, till I reflected that she had most reason to be so, since her behaviour was foolish affectation, mine only the effect of reasonable compassion.

This incident, however, greatly interrupted the pleasure I should have received from the entertainment; and another, not less mortifying, was, that I did not see Lord Dorchester the whole evening, till at my return home. I then found he had been at the opera likewise, and could not forbear reproaching him for not being of our party, especially as he once found a pleasure in going with me to every place. His answer was, that “ he thought
“ me too well engaged to have afforded
“ him any of my conversation, had he
“ attempted to come to us; and that
“ it would not have been easy to have
“ approached me, I was so encircled with
“ gentlemen.”

I replied, that “ this was a poor excuse to hide his want of inclination;
“ for he must know, I would be engaged in no other conversation when
“ I had the power of enjoying his; and
“ that a crowd must be great indeed

“ that did not leave one a possibility
“ of making room for a person whom
“ we esteemed far above that whole
“ crowd.” All the answer I obtained
was so broken with sighs, so unconnect-
ed in itself, and spoken with such an
air of dejection, as touched me to the
heart, though it did not speak intelli-
gibly enough for me to understand the
occasion of it.

In pity to his melancholy, I endea-
voured to hide the effect it had on me,
and tried every art to amuse him; I sang
to him; I read to him; I attempted to
lead him into conversation; but all to no
purpose; when he looked most pleased
with me, he seemed most oppressed; his
spirits were too much sunk to bear the
tenderness of his mind without an in-
crease of dejection. When his eyes ex-
pressed the utmost fondness, they over-
flowed with grief. I begged to know the
cause of his sorrow, but he left me with-
out satisfying a curiosity which arose only
from affection.

The following day seemed to have
made little alteration in the state of Lord
Dorchester's mind; but having promised
Lady Palestine to make part of a very
large

large company at her house that evening, we went thither at the proper hour.

The variety of objects and conversation, dispelled the gloom which oppressed my spirits before I left my own house. My melancholy was not proof against Sir Charles's vivacity, which even exceeded itself that night, and the evening passed away with great mirth. I spoke several times to my Lord, but could obtain little answer. His grief affected me; but still the natural gaiety of my temper, supported by all that could flatter my vanity or amuse my understanding, was not to be soon overcome. But at length no longer able to endure the sight of his uneasiness, I determined to go home if he would accompany me, in hopes that he would no longer conceal the cause of his affliction from importunities arising only from the desire of endeavouring to alleviate it.

I went up to him, told him I was going to retire, and begged to know when he would follow me.

Judge of my surprize, when the man whom I had never heard utter any thing but the words of love and tenderness, answered me in the sharpest tone, "ne-

“ never, madam ! if you want company,
“ you have too good interest with many
“ in the room to be denied theirs ; you
“ had better therefore change your appli-
“ cation ; and may depend on not being
“ impertinently interrupted by me.”

My amazement deprived me of speech, and if it had not, it would have been of little use ; for he gave me no time to answer him, leaving the room as soon as he had done speaking. I was so much shocked I had not power to follow him down stairs, as I certainly should have exposed myself by doing, had I been able. As my surprize abated, so my grief increased ; it overcame me so intirely, that I believe I should have sunk on the floor, had not Sir Charles Lisdale perceived the change of my countenance and offered his assistance, by which means I left the room and got into my chair. He enquired, with kind concern, the occasion of my disorder, but perceiving me incapable of either hearing or speaking, he supported me in silence to, and attended my chair to my own house, unseen by me till I was carried into the hall. Seeing me surprized at his presence, he excused it by saying
“ he could not forbear accompanying me,
“ left

“ left the motion of the chair might make
“ me still worse ; nor could he be easy
“ without knowing how I was on getting
“ home.” But he found me so little better that he received no satisfaction from this second view, and was still more alarmed when he learned from my servant that she had never seen me thus seized before.

Sir Charles intimated, that he could not rest without hearing how I did after I was put to bed, but my maid having more consideration for me than for his ease, prudently told him that any noise might disturb me ; upon which he said, that rather than run the least hazard of that, he would endure his impatience and anxiety till morning.

The only relief I could now feel was from being alone, that I might give an uninterrupted flow to my grief, which was indeed excessive. I had never before felt the anger of one I loved ; and had learned to think nothing but tenderness and good humour could fall from Lord Dorchester’s lips. Sir Charles’s servant watched the opening of the door the next morning, having been ordered not to knock for fear of disturbing my rest. Alas ! my night had all been spent in weeping.
When

When my servant informed him that I was rather worse than the evening before, having had no sleep, he, who had a real attachment to his master; said, “ he “ knew not how to carry Sir Charles that “ account, for that he had not been able “ to go to bed all night ; and he feared “ such an addition to his anxiety might “ prove very hurtful to him.” This, and the enquiries after my health, sent by such of my acquaintance as observed that I was ill when I left Lady Palestine’s, my maid repeated to me; for perceiving that grief was my disorder, she endeavoured, as much as possible, to divert my thoughts. These attentions from people for whom I had so small a regard in comparison with my love for Lord Dorchester, made me the more shocked at his not sending any enquiry after me; tho’ I thought he could not be ignorant of the anxiety his words must occasion. The reflection that I was in a new world, without a friend, unthought of by him, increased my affliction, as it gave me the worse opinion of the man who could thus wound a heart so entirely his, when he knew I had no comforter into whose bosom I could pour my grief, whose tenderness could soothe,

soothe, or care redress them. Was every one more kind than this man, who had ever before appeared so tender a friend? If I had been guilty of any fault to which my ignorance had subjected me, for I was conscious of none towards him, might I not have expected an easy pardon from one to whom I had forgiven so great an injury as forcibly taking me from my aunt, whose temper could never make me feel such agonies as his caprice now gave me? These were my reflections the whole day, during which Sir Charles called himself several times at my door to enquire into the state of my health, desirous of a more particular account than he could expect by a servant. Towards evening a thought arose, that perhaps this great change in a disposition, which used to be unclouded, equally serene, and pleasing, might proceed from distemper. The possibility of this no sooner struck me, than I began to take myself to task for complaining of him, when I ought rather to pity, nurse and attend him. I now arraigned my own heart more bitterly than I had yet done his, and looking on my present apprehension as most afflicting, prayed that from whatever cause his unkindness
arose,

arose, it might fall on me alone, that I only might suffer, and he be easy tho' I was miserable.

To quiet the present horrors of my mind, I sent to his house to know how he did, and waited the return of my messenger with the impatience of distraction; which was rather changed than abated, by his bringing me word that my Lord had been abroad the whole day. Notwithstanding my imaginary disinterestedness, I severely felt this proof of indifference. Not once to enquire the effect of his behaviour! not to comfort me with one kind word! was an excess of cruelty; which made me think such a heart as mine, capable of the deepest impressions and strongest sensations, very unfit to be in any degree linked with one who could be both so amiable and so cruel. Nor could night give any respite to my affliction.

C H A P. XXIII.

THE next day reduced me to envy the misery of the day before, which I had then thought most deplorable. A letter being delivered to me, the sight of his hand on the superscription revived my spirits, and spread joy over a heart before immersed in sorrow. I opened it with impatience, to see in how kind a manner he would at once sign both his and my pardon: but, oh heavens! how was I disappointed! Your ladyship, who never met with the like trials, will, in imagining it, fall as short of what I felt, as I should do if I endeavoured to describe the shock I received at reading the following lines:

“ A cold address but ill agrees with
“ the love I have born thee once, dear
“ Ophelia! but it is suitable to the sentiments I shall hereafter preserve towards her. Oh! Ophelia! you have
“ by deceit, I cannot call it ingratitude,
“ for I could not demand a return, cured
“ my heart of a weakness scarcely to be
“ paralleled.

“ paralleled. But how painful is the remedy: I have doated on you to excess; and have been lulled into happiness by the false appearances of your approving my love: but you have at last awaked me from this blissful dream, and shewn me that truth and constancy are not to be found in a female heart in any climate; that the levity of your sex makes them a prey to the newest lover, and prefer the fluttering of a wit to the constant attachment of an affectionate heart. If this disappointment to my fond hopes should make me miserable, it may punish me for my folly, but my resentment shall never render me criminal towards you. I have brought you from a fixed habitation, introduced you into a life of gaiety and pleasure, to the charms of which you are sensible if ever woman was. Your taste is so refined, and your knowledge so much increased; that you would but ill relish the rustic solitude of your former cottage; I shall therefore remit to you 400l. a year, which will enable you to live where you now are; and as soon as my mind acquires a little ease, I will so far extend a regard, which, alas!

Ophelia,

“ Ophelia, I fear I shall always preserve,
“ as to write you some necessary advice
“ concerning your future conduct; for
“ whatever I am, I must wish you happy,
“ and that those who possess more of your
“ affections may adore you as I have
“ done. I am carrying an afflicted heart
“ into the country, unable to stay in town
“ after having resolved never to see you
“ more. Your humanity would make
“ you pity, tho’ you cannot love me, if
“ you knew with what agonizing pain I
“ say, farewell for ever!”

A slender judgment of what I must have felt at the perusal of this letter, will serve to convince you that I was the greatest object of pity. Regardless of the presence of my servants, I could not forbear exclaiming, “ was it not enough to forsake
“ me, but must he add reproaches to his
“ cruelty! I practice deceit! my ignorance of such vile arts renders it impossible, even though my disposition was
“ not so open that I speak my thoughts
“ as freely as they rise; and yet my
“ countenance expresses them before my
“ words can do it, and were I to pollute
“ my tongue with a falsehood, would con-
“ tradict

“ tradict it, and convict me of an un-
“ truth. But they are all innocent ; what
“ then should hinder me from revealing
“ them ? And yet this man accuses me
“ of what he must know is a stranger to
“ my heart. Arts and concealments are
“ for the inconstant and injurious ; for
“ those who can oppress the innocent, and
“ make the friendless wretched by their
“ cruelty. Good heaven ! do I deserve
“ this character ? Would to God he
“ could as justly defend himself from it !

As soon as my maid perceived me so far deprived of my senses as to give such free and unguarded vent to my distraction, she sent the footman who had brought the letter, out of the room, and was the only person present during my exclamation ; to which a short pause succeeded, and then I ran out of the room, with an air so frantic as greatly terrified her. She pursued me, and stopping me before I got out of the house, asked “ what I designed
“ to do ? ” My purpose was so full in my thoughts, that I told her “ I was going to
“ Lady Palestine’s, to ask her where Lord
“ Dorchester was ? what he meant by
“ quarrelling with me ? and in what I
“ had offended ? ”

She

She kept fast hold of me till she convinced me I was in a very improper way to appear before so much company as I must be sensible, if I reflected on the hour, was then at Lady Palestine's: but to pacify me, in some degree, she went herself, and sending in a most pressing message to her ladyship, brought her out of company to speak with her. All the answer she brought me, was, that "Lady Palestine" was ignorant of every circumstance, except that Lord Dorchester was gone out "of town." As soon as the distraction of my mind abated enough to give me leave to attend to the effects it had upon me, I found myself extremely ill, and was soon unable to sit up. My maid, truly alarmed at my condition, sent for a physician, who declared me in a high fever, and ordered me to be kept in bed. But the pains that afflicted me, could not draw my attention from my Lord's behaviour. My first resolution was to refuse the income he offered; I would not give him room to think he had made me any recompence for the injuries he had done, or that it was in his power to pay me for what he had made me suffer, first by tearing me from all my soul could wish, and then by abandoning

abandoning me in a strange land, unfriended and unknown.

If my Lord's inconstancy had deprived me of my greatest good, I determined my own spirit should discharge me from the lesser; if he thought me beneath his friendship, I thought myself above his charity, nor could his whole fortune have given me the joy I should have received from one symptom of regard. I had money enough remaining to carry me back to my beloved aunt, who grew more dear to me from my Lord's ill treatment. From her tender and constant affection I hoped to find relief; in her goodness expected to receive consolation for the faults of others, and, far from this bad town, to learn to forget it and its cruel inhabitants, whose minds are as variable as their climate.

These hopes and resolutions were the result of my thoughts while I remained sensible; but, as to cure a distemper by medicine, which proceeds from anxiety of mind, is a vain attempt, I grew at last so bad, that I was light-headed, to which I may attribute my recovery. Want of reflection did what reason could not effect; it quieted my mind, and my constitution received benefit from it; for as
grief

grief was the cause of my illness, the loss of the sense of my affliction left me to youth and natural strength, and my fever abated. As soon as I recovered my senses, I was apprized of my danger, and once more saw death without terror. My doctor assured me he had saved my life. I could not have thanked him with a tolerable grace, had I believed him, but my credulity fell short of his assurances: I was convinced my distemper was beyond the reach of human art, and pressed him "to cease attempting a cure that would afford him little satisfaction, and me none." I was sorry his benevolent disposition should throw away on me the time which he dedicated to the relief of mankind. But when he was gone, my maid told me he would not part with a patient so easily, as his benefit was certain, tho' mine was doubtful, and came in a pleasing shape; for he received current gold in exchange for his advice, and declared war to the patient's palate, in return for that reward, which taken in the greatest quantities, was in no danger of creating a nausea.

When I found my doctor mercenary, instead of charitable, I felt less veneration
for

for him ; but no longer wondered money was held in so high esteem, since people thought they could purchase health with it. Could I have flattered myself that would have brought me ease of mind, I should have been very rapacious, but " esteem and love were never to be sold." and those were the things wanting to my peace.

My illness deferred the execution of my intended departure from London, but the resolution continued.

All my acquaintance sent daily enquiries after my health. Sir Charles Lisdale never called less than twice a day. The first person I saw was Lady Palestine, with whom I hoped to indulge myself with talking of my distress ; but my spirits were so weak, that when she came many past circumstances crowded to my remembrance, and I was choaked with tears. She staid some time in expectation of my growing more able to converse, seeming desirous to talk with me on the subject most at my heart ; but finding no amendment, was afraid her presence, by agitating me so greatly, might do me harm, and therefore left me, with a desire that I would let her know when I was more able to see her.

Not

Not understanding the passion of jealousy, I did not perceive any signs of remaining love in Lord Dorchester, or some flattering hopes might have been my consolation ; I should then have seen, that the man who wrote that letter was not indifferent ; of which I was now so well persuaded, that I never considered there was a possibility of his being otherwise. What served to convince me the more entirely of it, was his never having yet made any enquiry after me, tho' I had been so long and so dangerously ill. Seeing every thing in the worst light, I did not consider that he might not know it. The continual messages I received from many gentlemen, with the more particular enquiries of Sir Charles Lisdale and Lord Larborough, a young nobleman who always followed me about like a shadow, a constant, rather than an agreeable attendant, for he seldom spoke to me, made Lord Dorchester's neglect appear the greater.

At first I imagined my Lord's affection for me never real, or it could not so soon be entirely extinguished ; but I now began to think even humanity was dead in him. Good nature would have suggested to him, but friendship would have forced him

him to administer some consolation to the misfortunes of one whom he had introduced to misery, tho' she seemed to have been placed by fortune out of the reach of his inhumanity. It never once occurred to me, that he did not imagine I wanted any consolation; and that from this error arose all my grief and his. My afflictions seemed near an end; tho' my fever was gone, yet I did not recover; I was pale and emaciated, had neither strength to move, nor spirits to speak, equally weak both in mind and body, and, had not a ray of hope at last shone upon me, I believe my existence had not been of long duration.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXIV.

AS I was desirous of conversing with Lady Palestine, I sent to her as soon as I thought I had brought myself to see her with less discomposure. Upon turning the discourse to Lord Dorchester's sudden departure from London, I frankly spoke the sentiments of my heart, and expressed my grief as well as astonishment at so immediate an alteration. She told me, "she was well persuaded that jealousy of Sir Charles Lisdale was the occasion of it;" and she herself seemed to have some suspicion of my giving the Baronet the preference. As I had always appeared without disguise to my Lord, it was most incredible to me that he could entertain any such opinion; and my earnestness, as well as my late disorder, when she learned it was the consequence of Lord Dorchester's behaviour, were pretty sufficient proofs to her Ladyship that she had been under a mistake. However, had they not been convincing, all possibility of doubt was removed before she left me. As we were sitting, a message was brought

up to me from Mrs. Belfast, a lady with whom I had become acquainted at lady Palestine's, importing, that "she was
" at the door to enquire after my health;
" and if I was well enough to admit her,
" would be extremely glad to wait on
" me." Not being fit to see company, I had hitherto declined all visits; but as Lady Palestine's coach was at the door, I thought I could not, without a manifest affront, refuse seeing Mrs. Belfast.

The lady was extremely intimate with Sir Charles Lisdale; and had no sooner done expressing her concern at my looking so ill, than she began to tell me "how
" very sensibly Sir Charles had been afflicted; and that he had engaged her
" to beg my permission for his waiting on
" me to congratulate me on my recovery, very, and to receive his cure from seeing mine; till when he could enjoy no
" health."

Lord Dorchester's behaviour had disgusted me with the sex; and since Lady Palestine had given me reason to think my Lord was jealous of Sir Charles, I was more particularly averse to seeing him. With more sincerity and positiveness than was
consistent

consistent with good breeding, I immediately refused to receive his visit.

But Mrs. Belfast was too zealous an advocate to be rebuffed by one denial; and being extremely intimate with Lady Palestine, she said “ she thought her presence “ need not prevent her from performing “ another part of her commission, if I “ refused the first.” She then made a long panegyric on Sir Charles, expatiated on the excess of his love for me, of his uneasiness at being debarred my conversation, extolled his good qualities, his understanding and temper, and various merits, which were unnecessarily enumerated to me who knew him; and ended with saying, that “ if I would not give “ him the liberty of telling me how much “ he loved me, she was commanded to “ do it for him; and to let me know that “ his highest ambition was to be united to “ me for life. If I would consent to marry “ him, my happiness should be his sole “ study; that he and his fortune would “ always be at my disposal; and he should “ think himself under the highest obligation for the felicity he must enjoy in an “ union with me; that his estate was “ very considerable, and I should myself

“ direct the settlements; for he could never esteem his whole fortune in any degree equal to my merits.

This proposal startled me; it shewed more true affection than all Lord Dorchester's actions. To bind himself for life, to give me the command of his fortune, was a strong proof of his good opinion. My own reflections engaged me for a few minutes, and those few served to shew me, that though I always esteemed Sir Charles, was delighted with his conversation, and now felt myself sincerely grateful, yet I could not think of marrying him. This I told Mrs. Belfast in the plainest terms, acknowledging, at the same time, my real regard for him, and my gratitude for so generous a proof of his affection.

She endeavoured to prevail upon me to give a more favourable answer; and so earnestly pressed for my consent, that she convinced me she was a warm friend, and no bad advocate: but at last, assured of my inflexibility, she went away, telling me that “ she saw to what Sir Charles owed the misfortune of a refusal; had not my affections been engaged, I must have accepted his offers;

“ fers; but he had feared to find Lord
“ Dorchester an impediment to the com-
“ pletion of his wishes, and she grieved
“ that she must be obliged to give him
“ so strong a proof of the reasonableness
“ of his apprehensions.”

When Mrs. Belfast was gone, Lady Palestine asked me why I refused a proposal so much to my advantage. I knew not well how to answer; my heart, not my reason, gave the denial, and its emotions are not so easily described. All I had to say, was, that “ I could not think of marrying him. I liked his company extremely, was convinced of his love, and grateful for it; that marriage must give him such a title to my affection as even Lord Dorchester could not disapprove, and could not imagine interfered with my friendship for him, the only sort of attachment he required, for he had never given me so strong a proof of his good opinion as to think of me in the capacity of a wife.”

Lady Palestine asked “ if I was then determined to marry no man.” I replied, “ indeed such was my resolution. I was sensible from this small trial that I could not bear to look on any man

“ in the light of a husband, except Lord
“ Dorchester ; and I wished only to live
“ with him as a friend ; but those blessed
“ days were over ; and I had now no
“ other design than to return, as soon
“ as my strength would permit me, to
“ my solitude, and dedicate the remain-
“ der of my life to recompence my aunt
“ for what I had involuntarily occasioned
“ her to suffer.”

I saw Lady Palestine listen to me with some contempt. When I had done speaking, she, with a sneer, intermixed the words, girlish passions, foolish constancy, romantick notions, imaginary delicacy, with her answer ; but I could have forgiven her a greater affront for the consolation she had brought me by attributing Lord Dorchester’s behaviour to jealousy ; though it seemed to me scarcely possible, yet my despair seized this glimmering of hope. I once more opened his letter ; it corresponded with what she had said ; and I now fancied some sentences in it expressed a remaining tenderness. But if this was the case, I thought it strange that he did not enquire into the state of my heart, and not build a belief on circumstances, when he might have had my-
word

word for information. It never occurred to me, that my testimony must appear fallible to a man who had been used to see so much falshood; and that

———Trifles light as air,
Are to the jealous, confirmations strong,
As proofs of holy writ.———

Three days passed in reasoning on a possibility, which was the foundation of all my comfort; till at last I began to say with Solomon, that "hope deferred, maketh the heart sick." My hopes were too slightly raised to support any degree of spirits for so long a time; they grew faint, and would soon have vanished quite, and left me again a prey to despair, had they not been driven away by certainty. In the afternoon a letter was brought me from Lord Dorchester; I imagined it contained the instructions he promised me, yet opened it with a melancholy satisfaction, as his hand would endear the contents, let them be otherwise disagreeable. But joy broke in at once upon my mind at seeing the most affectionate address, followed by words more tender. In the humblest manner, "he

“ begged leave to wait on me, to ask a
“ pardon from me, which he could ne-
“ ver give to himself, for a behaviour
“ so inexcusable, founded on an injuri-
“ ous suspicion, too rashly conceived and
“ resented.” He expressed so lively a
grief for the cruel effects of it, that had
I had spirits to have retained anger, I
must have been pacified; he condemned
himself in such bitterness of soul, that I
could scarcely forbear resenting the injury
he did the friend of my heart, as I then
again esteemed him; and was ready to
think it the only fault he had com-
mitted.

This letter found me in so weak a con-
dition, that I had not till then been able
to get down stairs without assistance; but
such a cordial is joy, that I ran down to
the servant to enquire where his Lord
was; who informing me that he was
waiting impatiently at his house in town
for my answer, I told him I would not
detain him till I could write; but desired
he would acquaint his Lord that I wished
to see him as-foon as possible.

The servant was not long in carrying
his message, nor his master in obeying it;
few minutes passed before the flutter of
expectation

expectation was put an end to by my Lord's arrival. He entered the room with a confusion that deprived him of utterance; and taking my hand with a diffidence and melancholy that hurt me, pressed it to his lips. My spirits, overcome with the agitation they had been in, failed me, and I began to weep more like a mourner than one in the excess of joy. My Lord accompanied my tears with some of his, which seemed greatly to relieve him, and restore him to his speech. "I cannot, my Ophelia," said he, "presume to ask your pity; I am
"oppressed with the consciousness of
"rather deserving your hatred; but I
"am sure if you knew what I have
"suffered, and still suffer, your generous
"and gentle nature would look on me,
"however blameable, yet as an object
"worthy your compassion, since my punishment has been adequate to the
"greatest offence, and if it could be
"expiated must be sufficient to wash it
"away. I thought it impossible to be
"a greater wretch than I was while I
"imagined Sir Charles Lisdale possessed
"your heart; but since I learnt from
"Lady Palestine the injustice I have done

“ you, and how grievously you have
“ suffered by it, I have been ten thou-
“ sand times more miserable; the pale-
“ ness of your cheeks, and the languor
“ in your eyes, are reproaches that rend
“ my heart. To see you thus, is worse
“ than being torn from you. Oh my
“ Ophelia, can you ever forgive me.”

My Lord, indeed, appeared so very wretched, that I could not add to his self reproaches; but, on the contrary, endeavoured to extenuate his fault; I assured him, “ that if his neglect had made me
“ sick, his kindness would be my cure;
“ that it had almost made me well al-
“ ready; and that the pleasure I now
“ felt compensated all past pains, which
“ would only serve, henceforward, to
“ heighten all my happiness by compa-
“ rison.” But all I could say seemed to increase his grief, instead of alleviating it. He begged “ I would be less generous,
“ and said my goodness added to his mi-
“ sery, in shewing him still more criminal
“ in wronging, in afflicting, an angel.” I found, by conversing with him, that he had desired Lady Palestine to observe my behaviour, and discover my sentiments; that she had written him word of what
passed

passed in her visit to me, which affected him so much that he set out that instant, and would not suffer the darkest, most stormy night in the whole winter, to stop him in his journey, so impatient was he to see me. The moment he arrived, he went to Lady Palestine, to learn every circumstance more particularly than he could by her letter, which both satisfied and touched him still more sensibly.

He could not venture to see one whom he had so much injured, as he was pleased to think he had done me, without first asking permission; but not having patience to stay for his servant's return with my answer, he met him half way, which occasioned his being with me so immediately.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXV.

I NOW found that nothing was so beneficial to the constitution as ease of mind. A few days passed in happiness, made a greater progress in my recovery, than all the medicines which the physician yet had prescribed me. As grief was the cause of my sickness, it was but natural that health should be the consequence of my felicity.

I now first learnt to play the hypocrite : my Lord seemed so tenderly anxious for my health, and reproached himself so much for every pain I felt, that when I was most ill, I durst not indulge myself in the peevish satisfaction of complaining ; perceiving that he suffered more by my sickness than I did ; for though I instantly forgave him, he could not forgive himself. Had it not been for the consideration, that what has once been, may be again, and the fear of my Lord's relapsing at any time into the same sort of whim, I should have been happier than ever ; for he was now never an hour in the day absent. Even sickness had its
pleasure ;

pleasure; his care and watchful attendance turned pain into delight. I took advantage of my disorder to excuse my keeping at home, that I might not lose my Lord's company for those who I began to see acted upon custom, soliciting what they did not desire, and begging for what they would not chuse to have granted. I had learnt that to be impertinent was civil, and thoroughly troublesome was being perfectly well-bred. I found that the aim of the complaisant was not so much to please, as to appear pleased; trusting to vanity for rendering it mutual. In consequence of these customs, I was too soon obliged to mortify myself and plague others, to avoid affronting them, though I deferred as long as my health would leave me the shadow of an excuse.

The first day I went to Lady Palestine's, I met Sir Charles Lisdale there, who seemed to have lost all vivacity, which had rendered him so agreeable. He approached me with a very dejected air, and used all possible intreaties to persuade me to admit a visit from him. When they failed, he expatiated on his passion with an elegance and appearance of sincerity that affected me, though not with love. The
very

very thoughts of marrying him created a kind of dislike in me, which I did not feel before ; but yet he seemed so seriously touched in all he said, that I was sorry to add to his uneasiness. Endeavouring to comfort him, I assured him of my regard and gratitude, expressing great pleasure in the expectation of seeing him often at Lady Palestine's as usual ; but he told me that " if I was absolute in my determination, he must seek for ease in absence ; for that he should be wretched with so poor a return, unless my cruelty could conquer his passion." I could not help thinking the whole sex distracted : to forswear any farther acquaintance with me, if he could not have my company at all times, and fixed for life, appeared to me as unreasonable as if a man was to kill himself because he did not possess every thing he wished in this world ; refusing to enjoy the solid comforts of life, if some trifling benefit was denied him. I was sorry Sir Charles was determined to avoid me ; I thereby lost the conversation of a man I greatly liked and esteemed ; and Lord Dorchester now appeared so easy about him, that I had no reason to fear any inconveniences

niences should arise from our acquaintance. My Lord endeavoured to account for his jealousy from the general inconstancy of both sexes; but I could not think this a sufficient reason for it, as inconstancy towards him could not be so well justified as in many cases; for by what I could learn, the general practice of deceit makes people appear so much better at first, that on long acquaintance they prove to be, that to continue to love them, rather than cease to do so, should be termed inconstancy. When the merit disappears, the object of a reasonable affection is no longer the same, and love, like all other structures, should fall when the foundation sinks: our love should follow our esteem, and consequently no one can have a right to the one, after he has forfeited his title to the other. When the deceit appears, by the mask's falling off the mind, the man can have no better demand upon our hearts than his picture has; indeed scarcely so much, as the painted canvas is most innocent, but the daubed hypocrite most criminal. Lord Dorchester's virtues seemed to me too real and permanent to reduce a woman to change,
and

and therefore I could not allow he had a good excuse for his suspicions; and I was fully determined to avoid exciting any for the future, by watching my behaviour more narrowly, and not leaving my vivacity under the command of my innocence, since that could not defend it from giving offence. Sir Charles could no longer be an object of uneasiness; for after meeting him once more at Lady Palestine's, when he took a most affectionate farewell, which I returned with all the sincerity of my warmest good wishes, he left London, giving out that he was going to make the tour of Europe. He politely said, "in hopes by the variety of objects, and diffipation, to banish me from his mind." I could not think but this arduous affair might have been contrived with less trouble; and have been more convinced of it since experience has shewn me that the memory is not one of those hard compositions, out of which impressions are so very difficult to erase; I have seen a woman wash her lover from her remembrance in less time than she could get a spot of ink out of her ruffle.

Could

Could I have brought myself to follow the custom of being denied, I should have been tempted to abate my civility to my acquaintance. But the practice of falshood, however trifling the circumstance, appeared to me a thing of consequence; it learns people to disregard truth; and we cannot expect those whom we teach to lye for our convenience, should forbear it when it may turn to their advantage. It is corrupting the minds of persons, who, being in our power, ought to be the objects of our care, whose principles we should watch over and improve by precept and example. Your Ladyship has observed, that my opinion and practice are still the same in this particular, though acknowledging the inconveniencies arising from it; but greater evils cannot dispense with our adherence to truth. The temptation was certainly never stronger than at the time of which I am speaking; when Lord Dorchester's constant conversation was a necessary reward for what I had lately suffered: and yet I had less liberty of enjoying it at home than abroad, as I was obliged to direct all my conversation to my visitors.

C H A P,

C H A P. XXVI.

AMONG other places where I went after the recovery of my happiness and my health, was the masquerade. The company, beside Lady Palestine, Lord Dorchester, and Lord Larborough, who was become very intimate with my Lord, were Lady Cambridge, Lady Rochester, and Miss Baden, of whom I shall give your Ladyship some little account before I proceed with them to the Haymarket. Lady Cambridge claims the first place; and far be it from me to rob her of a precedency she would not have relinquished; no not in passing over a dung-hill, for her whole estate. For the honour of having been the first woman, I believe she would soon have been contented to have resigned her existence, and to have lain as long in the grave as our mother Eve has. With all this she was courteous to excess; for being persuaded that a word from her was a great honour to those who received it, and being of a benevolent disposition, she generously bestowed that inestimable

ble favour on all she met. Humility was the virtue on which she particularly piqued herself; and to make it known to others, she lived in a perfect convulsion of civility, and had not a limb or feature that was not as much overstrained by the violence of her endeavours as her complaisance. In the height of these agitations, one could as little know her person as her mind by the courtesy she professed. No one so bitterly inveighed against proud persons, telling you that pride was her detestation. Convinced her approbation stamped a value on every thing, she would praise every part of your dress, in order to give a dignity to trifles. I never saw a woman who so truly laboured in her calling, for affability was her profession. If it was in the power of a person one did not esteem, to humble one, the impetuosity of her civility would have done it; for her complaisance was an insult, and her fawning, insolence. They appeared only to her inferiors; to her equals in birth, she was stately and imperious. Like the generous lion, she would condescend to engage with an insignificant plebeian, but would enter the combat with

with a true heroick spirit, if her antagonist was of such noble blood as deserved her notice; and defend her glorious prerogative of precedency at the expence of every rule of good breeding. Lady Rochester was a person of sublimer notions than to dispute the precedency I have given to Lady Cambridge. She was in person tall and thin, formal in her manner, and solemn in her countenance. Her chief employ was reading, and the great purpose of it to appear wise, not to be so. She acquired a smattering in many studies; and having amassed a great number of technical terms, she applied them to all subjects, whether proper or improper, and by happy chance they were generally misplaced. If a ribbon was the topick of discourse, she delivered her sentiments in mathematical phrases; if she ordered any of her family affairs, which, indeed, was but seldom, for her genius soared above such vulgar things, she would borrow her expressions from metaphysicks, and talk of the "entity of a piece of beef, the non-existence of a pigeon pyc and the heterogenous particles in salmigon-di;" or changing science, but still remaining

remaining scientific, would expatiate on the "infinitissimals in minced meat." To describe an assembly, she would call astronomy to her assistance, and algebra must furnish its quota of words, to enable her to inform you of the numbers that were at it. No person could be mentioned without reminding her of some one in antiquity. If a gentleman appeared inattentive, "he was as absent as Archimedes when Syracuse was taken." If a person expressed concern at the great prevalence of vice, "he was like Heraclitus, weeping for follies he could not cure; and therefore she advised him to inhabit a tub, like Diogenes, unless he would cease to expect perfection in finite beings, endowed with free-will, and void of all prescience; for that all ages had been corrupt, and every nation vicious, except some few;" which she would not omit to mention; any more than to enumerate the different vices of all kingdoms, beginning with Cain's envy and cruelty, and sometimes scarcely sparing the frailty of our first parents. If the person whom she addressed, as would often be the case, happened to laugh at the inundation of wisdom she bestowed upon

upon him, she would observe, "that tho' risibility was one of the most distinguishing characteristics of the human species, yet as laughter arose from pride, it ought to be suppressed:" but if he did not compose his countenance into proper gravity on this rebuke, she would declare him "as indocile as Nero to Seneca's instructions," and therefore leave him. If a man had an impediment in his speech, "he stammered like Alcibiades." A narrow passage was "the streights of Thermopylæ;" and if any people stood at one end of it, she never failed discovering a Leonidas amongst them. If a lady whispered a piece of scandal, "she was more severe than the Athenian Ostracism, from which the just Aristides could not escape uncensured." If she was offended with a fop, she declared him "more effeminate than Sardanapalus, and more indolent than the most inactive of the Merovingienne Race. A country squire came by chance into her company once, when I was present, and she cried out "he was more savage than the Huns, Goths, or Vandals; and Attila or Genserick were polite in comparison of that barbarian." If a ball was

was mentioned, she would declare her longing desire to see the Salian dance ; and grieve for the degeneracy of mankind in not reviving the Olympic games. A war was particularly fortunate for her ; as she would, from the smallest skirmish, find an opportunity of talking of the battle of Marathon, of Cannæ, or some other equally remote from the present age ; and of advising every General she saw to a new way of martialling his army, particularly recommending to him the imitation of the Macedonian phalanx. She affronted seven young ladies, resplendently dressed, who were standing together, telling them “ they “ reminded her of Urfa Major :” the simile did not sound well, and they all frowned most uncourteously ; but could not discourage her from addressing a lady cloathed in silver tissue, on her “ shining “ like the Galaxy.” Folly, as well as vice, sometimes is productive of good to part of the society ; thus her Ladyship’s pedantic vanity gave her a right to the praise given to Lewis, since it must be said,

That she the living genius fed,
And rais’d the scientific head.

For

For flattering herself with a notion of being a female Mecænas, as she would often indirectly call herself, she imitated his bounty, if she could not rival his judgment; and reconciled those two parts of man, the mind and body, which are apt to be so much at variance, that where one is greatly attended to the other generally suffers severely by neglect.

Whether there is less variety in good than in evil, or that we are apt to be more concise in our panegyrics than our satires, I know not, but few words, though much affection, will fall to Miss Baden's share. Folly is extremely various, but good sense is uniform, and from its perfect consistency is soon described. I had not then met with a woman whom I thought so agreeable as Miss Baden: she was several years older than myself, and seemed well acquainted with the world; was sensible, polite, modest, and genteel; her voice remarkably pleasing; and tho' not handsome, had a great deal of sweetness in her countenance.

Miss Baden was a good deal disposed in my favour; so well inclined to each other, I believe we should then have become intimate, had not Lord Dorchester discourag-
ed

ed it, and as much as possible interrupted our acquaintance. As he had known her longer, I could not doubt but she had faults which had disgusted him, tho' I had not perceived them; and therefore avoided her to the utmost of my power. The reason of my Lord's objecting to her will be obvious to your Ladyship, to whom I need not say that he feared her discernment, and the frankness of her nature, which must together enable her to see the arts used to impose upon me, as well as the end designed by them, and induce her to discover the whole to one whom a woman of her sense and virtue must pity, for being too likely to become the prey of arts and vices she could not suspect, and therefore was the less qualified to baffle.

In this company I went to the masquerade, which had been so described to me as to raise my curiosity very much; but in absurdity it exceeded what my expectation had formed of it. The motley phantastick crew seemed to me more like what the imagination represents to us in sleep, when the body is disordered, than any real objects that ever appear before our eyes; and I have often thought their causes bore some resemblance to each other. Dreams

are generally the effects of excesses, or of feverish heats; masquerades are the produce of a strange excess of fancy, an overheated imagination, set to work by a wild desire of amusement.

The variety of shocking forms terrified me, till use had a little familiarized them; and I found that this assembly, in the opinion of most people, received its terrors, not from masking the faces, but unmasking the mind. When I learned that the English were such great enemies to sincerity that none dared practice it bare-faced, I allowed there was some excuse for thus defending themselves from the ill effects of so uncommon an indulgence of that virtue. I should imagine some relaxation from the painful exercises of dissimulation and flattery necessary, and might be productive of general good. But the divine countenance of truth is so seldom seen here, that if by chance she does appear, she is often mistaken for ill nature. Nor can one wonder at the error; for she is, according to the fashionable phrases, "one that nobody knows," "one that one never meets any where:" and therefore, if she will intrude, it is not wonderful if she is so ill treated as to be forced immediately

immediately to withdraw. The impression she leaves behind only serves to make her avoided like a bugbear, and ridiculed without mercy ; so generally rebuffed, that she can scarcely find shelter in a cottage ; for she seldom meets with a very different reception from the most sumptuous palaces down to the poorest hut ; she may, indeed, perceive that the force of her charms can be properly known only on long acquaintance. There is a severity in her countenance which may please less, at first, than the alluring sweetness of falsehood ; but, in time, her's is seen to be unfading beauty ; and tho' she may sometimes appear severe, is never morose. The whole majesty in her mein pleases, while it awes beholders, who have any taste for true loveliness ; and the longer her votaries serve her, the more they are captivated with her charms ; time increases their love, and familiarity raises their adoration, an effect not to be paralleled in any other case. From the little acquaintance people have with this divine goddess, they sometimes mistake one for her who bears a small resemblance to some of her features, but so greatly heightened and bloated, that to a distinguishing

eye she is no more like her than a Saracen's head is like the Venus of Medicis, and her true names are brutality and censoriousness. This ape of her divinity, I believe, frequents masquerades as much or more than she does. Accustomed to excesses, people lose the relish for the true medium, and make but one step from flattery to abuse.

Those who have fawned and cringed in a drawing-room till after ten o'clock, will, before eleven, under the shelter of an antick dress and mask, be lavishly dealing out their impertinence and incivility in the Hay-market. Observing this to Lady Rochester, she replied, "that she looked on
" a masquerade as the English Saturnalia; and as people of fashion here were
" more abject slaves to ceremonious forms
" than the Roman domesticks were to
" their masters, it was but reasonable
" that they should have their days of liberty to declare their disgust with impunity, and revile those they disapprove." I found her Ladyship so prejudiced in favour of the Saturnalia, because of its antiquity, that she made no distinction between freedom and licentiousness.

I soon

I soon perceived that I should acquire more knowledge of the true dispositions of mankind at three of these assemblies, than by living three months in the polite world; for it was the first time I saw people in their natural characters; the mind was now apparent, the face only hid; and, as the company I was with were much used to these entertainments, they could see thro' the masks, which would have concealed many of my acquaintance from my less discerning eyes, and by their assistance I perceived the forced prude indulging in coquetry; the affectedly grave giving a loose to mirth and pleasure; the fawning, pert and impertinent; great statesmen condescending to be trifling, and philosophers to be foolish; all laying aside those parts which interest, the love of power, or of fame, induced them to act in publick.

Lady Cambridge was as new to this entertainment as myself, never having been at a masquerade before; and I could see the great familiarity with which every one accosted her, with as little distinction as they could the lowest plebeian, greatly offended her pride, and she could scarcely

prevail on herself to conceal so much nobility under a mask. That I might be sure of the cause of the disturbance I perceived in her, I observed that “ this diversion seemed an emblem of death ; it laid all hearts open, and put an end to all dissimulation and pretence ; and if the resurrection was not so quick, I should be more on a par with the rest of the world, since I was not one of the number who durst not appear without an internal mask, unless I had an external one to conceal me : that, like the grave too, it levelled all distinctions, and brought high and low on an equality.” Upon thus touching the tender point, her Ladyship answered, that “ indeed she thought masquerades could never long meet with encouragement from persons of rank, unless they could find out a method of distinguishing their conditions.” I proposed a coronet on the mask, as the easiest method of fixing the stamp of rank and fashion on those who could claim it. She was charmed with the thought, and declared “ she would endeavour to bring her friends into it ; and if it once became general, she should be a constant person at those diversions, “ since

“ since in every respect but that levelling
“ quality she liked them extremely.”

A masquerade by no means answered my expectations; the variety of characters, which I was told were there personated, seemed to promise much entertainment; but before half the evening was spent, I found that wit, the great requisite to make them so, was a scarce commodity; and that after the wearer was once dressed, he thought as little of the character he had assumed, as he did of the propriety of it when he chose the habit. Thus one sees a barlequin limping with difficulty a-cross the room; an old woman skipping and dancing more nimbly than any of the company; a French *petit maitre* pensive or sleepy; a fortune-teller dancing a minuet; a bear exercising the height of solemn politeness; a shepherdess bold and impudent; a nun coquetishly frisky; a Turk drinking wine; and a Spaniard easy, gay, and familiar.

Tho' novelty has great charms, yet I grew weary before the greatest part of the company; the lateness of the hour contributed more than any thing to tire me. I could not reconcile myself to the custom of the civilized part of the world, of re-

versing the orders of nature, of sleeping the best part of the day, neglecting the sun in his brightness, and inventing artificial lights to illumine the night. It was strange to me to find that people were never lively but when they should be at rest.

I was inclined to suspect them of a superstitious regard to midnight; especially when I reflected that the only music which was on any settled establishment, and the only lay monitor, performed at that time; and in the darkest season of the year; a time, to persons who keep regular hours, the most unfit for music, since there will seldom be much harmony in the minds of people waked out of a sleep which was beginning to refresh them after the labours of the day, even tho' Cecilia herself was to be the musician.

The Christmas monitor is better imagined, as he first rouses them with his bell; and thus prepares them, with no small solemnity to listen to the moral sentences which he has most ingeniously put into verse. Not such, indeed, as the muses inspire, and entitle the author to the pure streams of Helicon; ale being both his inspirer and his reward; and instead of
flying

flying on the back of Pegasus, he creeps with a crutch. This institution I have often thought might be of great use in a religion whose doctrine was designed to fright from sin by well wrought terrors, rather than to encourage virtue by hopes. The awful sound of his bell, at an hour to which darkness and the stillness of night gives a solemnity, would greatly heighten the figures and strengthen the metaphors, in a discourse formed to work on the fears of our timorous imaginations. Religious hobgoblins, as well as childish bugbears, are but little believed in sunshine. That great luminary dispels superstition as well as all other clouds and vapours; it clears the understanding as well as the sky; it nourishes only what is natural, banishing all phantastick forms, which are forced to fly before it and take shelter under the shade of night, when the mind is more gloomy and less rational. Notwithstanding my objections of turning the night into day, I was obliged, in great measure, to conform to the general custom, tho' never so far as to suffer it to deprive me of the enjoyment of the blessed sun, whose presence had more charms for me than the company of those who despised it; so that

my nights, not my days, were abridged by these late entertainments ; and the next was obliged to make up to me for the encroachments on the night before, if requisite, which it seldom was, as I had been accustomed to take little sleep.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVII.

IT was usual with Lord Dorchester and me to take a morning walk, whenever the weather would permit it, in the fields leading to Chelsea; which gave rise to an adventure so interesting, that I cannot forbear communicating it to your Ladyship, tho' it is foreign to the history I have engaged to give you of myself.

For several days together we observed a man, who with care avoided the public path, tho' he walked in the same fields. Curiosity at last tempted us to go up to him. His sickly and dejected aspect excited our compassion. Lord Dorchester, whose humanity made him feel for the distresses of others, tho' of such a nature as he could never have experienced, was greatly touched with the appearance of wretchedness so visible in this man. He was sitting down on the trunk of a tree; we seated ourselves by him; he attempted to rise, more from a desire of flying society than from an humble intention of giving place to persons who seemed more in fortune's

fortune's favour than himself; but my Lord would not permit him to leave us. After asking several questions about indifferent things, and with great difficulty leading him into discourse, my Lord told him, that " he might appear impertinent " in thus forcing himself into his acquaintance, but that compassion, and a desire " to assist him, was his motive. That he " appeared unhappy; and if it was not " improper, we should be infinitely obliged " to him if he would inform us what was " the occasion of it."

The poor man shook his head, and declined complying with his request, saying, " nothing was less agreeable to hear nor " to relate, than a series of distresses; that " he made it a rule never to talk of his " misfortunes; for if he met with bad, " ill natured people, they would dislike " him for being wretched, and avoid him " as if misery was infectious. On the " contrary, to persons of humanity he " would not chuse to give even the pain " of compassion." And, indeed, so much did he act up to this declaration, that he could not be prevailed upon to give any account of himself. My Lord finding he was not likely to succeed by intreaties, endeavoured

deavoured to draw him into the subject ; and taking the hint from his cloaths, which were a tattered suit of regimentals, began to expatiate on all the hardships to which military men are liable. Among the rest, he took notice of the unhappy state of a disbanded regiment. My Lord no sooner fell on this topic, than it was very visible in the poor man's countenance that he had hit upon the cause of his distress. My Lord perceiving this, dwelt on the subject, and imagined all the cases in which it could be most cruel ; supposed many of these men to have wives and children to maintain, out of a half-pay which could scarcely afford support to themselves ; described the continual sollicitation to men in power ; and the neglect and indignities which, he said, poverty was apt to receive. He then talked of the anxious state of a sailor's mind, elevated with hopes, only to be sunk the next moment in despair. The poor man could hold out no longer ; tears ran down his face, and he begged of my Lord to say no more, for he had touched the string of his misfortunes ; crying out, with a kind of agony, " I have
" too long suffered all, and more than
" you have described, and gone thro' the
" scenes

“ scenes your imagination has only drawn.
 “ Be grateful, Sir, to Providence, for ne-
 “ ver having afflicted you with such mis-
 “ fortunes; for I perceive it has not, or
 “ you could not have dwelt on circum-
 “ stances of which the bare recollection,
 “ tho’ the time of suffering was past, must
 “ cut you to the soul.” Wound up to
 this pitch, it was easy to draw him into
 a relation of misfortunes which had too
 entire a possession of his thoughts to be
 any longer concealed; but it was some
 time before we could get him into a re-
 gular narration. The disturbance of his
 mind made him repeat a confused set of
 facts, mixed with such pathetic exclama-
 tions, as drew tears from my eyes. How-
 ever, at last my Lord composed his spirits
 so far, that he began thus:

“ My name, Sir, is Traverse. I was
 “ put into the army as soon as I was able
 “ to carry a pair of colours, which my fa-
 “ ther, who was a Colonel, gave me;
 “ but dying soon after, and leaving me
 “ with nothing for my support but the
 “ profits of my post and the gratitude of
 “ his friends, among whom he had spent
 “ his fortune, it was not long before I ex-
 “ perience the disagreeable parts of my
 “ profession.

“ profession. My father’s friends caressed
“ me, indeed, and courted me into their
“ company, which was attended with ex-
“ pences very inconvenient to me. I
“ durst not, however, wholly neglect them,
“ as I hoped a return from their friend-
“ ship, the frail dependance of people of
“ my profession, where interest is the so-
“ vereign disposer of every thing. But
“ the first opportunity I had of trying
“ these friends shewed me, that if hope
“ was a pleasure, it was one I was likely
“ long to enjoy. Every vacaney in our
“ regiment raised it, and I got no prefer-
“ ment to gratify it. Somebody or other
“ was constantly put over my head, tho’
“ they sometimes could scarcely perform
“ the easy exercises practised among us.
“ My patrons assured me they did all they
“ could; but some great power frustrated
“ their endeavours. However, they fed
“ me with promises of procuring me the
“ next Lieutenantcy. For some years, I
“ believe, their intentions corresponded
“ with their words; but, at last, I found
“ the highest favour I should ever receive
“ from them was being drawn into their
“ follies and expences, little suitable to
“ my inclinations or income; being treated
“ with

“ with the little ceremony of a depen-
“ dant, and obliged to please their con-
“ venience and pride, which led them to
“ like having gentlemen in their train of
“ followers. Many would shew me as a
“ young man whom they had taken un-
“ der their protection, and whose fortune
“ they intended to push, having a great
“ regard for my father; and never failed
“ insinuating that they conferred continual
“ obligations upon me. This greatly
“ mortified my pride, as I was conscious
“ of receiving none from them, unless
“ they esteemed disagreeable conversation
“ as such. Finding I was not likely to
“ be raised by their interest; and that,
“ notwithstanding I had been in several
“ engagements, and received particular
“ encomiums from my officers, yet still I
“ was passed by in every preferment, as
“ much as if it had been impossible for
“ me to change my post, I at last be-
“ gan to neglect them, and, in despair,
“ resolved to think no more of it, but to
“ try whether time would be a better
“ friend. Fortunately for me we had a
“ new Colonel soon after this, who, un-
“ derstanding how long I had been in the
“ regiment, and having enquired into
“ my

“ my character, and the reason of my
“ remaining so long an Ensign, told me
“ I should see that merit had greater in-
“ terest with him than the recommen-
“ dations of people in power; and ac-
“ cordingly gave me the first vacant lieu-
“ tenancy. But he dying in a short time,
“ I had no opportunity of experiencing
“ his further goodness, which, I am per-
“ suaded, would have led him to promote
“ me in due order. However, I was to
“ owe the obligation to a fairer hand.
“ Sometime after my Colonel’s death, I
“ renewed my acquaintance with a young
“ lady, which had been for many years
“ interrupted. During our childhood we
“ had been almost continually together;
“ but were separated by an employment
“ which called her father into a foreign
“ country, from whence he was but just
“ returned. I had not long visited at his
“ house before I found a new kind of
“ uneasiness, which made me insensible
“ to every thing that did not concern my
“ great wish, the longing I had to make
“ my former playfellow the companion
“ of my soul. The recollections of our
“ childish sports, and all the passages
“ of our infant years, created an intimacy
“ between

“ between us almost as soon as we met.
“ Tho’ she was handsome, beauty was
“ her least charm: her understanding was
“ excellent, though years and experience
“ could not be said to have improved it.
“ Her heart was as free from blemish as
“ it was filled with virtues. Then the
“ numberless attractions in every look
“ and motion were so far beyond description,
“ that I will be silent, though
“ I could dwell on them for ever. I flattered
“ myself with a belief of a friendly
“ return of affection from this angel; but
“ this was not sufficient; I ardently longed
“ that she should conceive more tender
“ sentiments, though the low state of my
“ fortune would not permit me to endeavour
“ to inspire them, as I considered
“ it was the means of making her the
“ companion of my despair, of which
“ alone I wished to act the miser, and to
“ communicate no part to her. Accident,
“ however, betrayed the love I
“ feared to reveal, and her behaviour
“ upon the occasion served to bind my
“ fetters faster. Her generosity charmed
“ me to excess; and we soon enjoyed the
“ enchanting pleasure arising from professions
“ of mutual love, with all the
“ warmth

“ warmth and delicacy that could be felt
“ or expressed by people filled with a
“ passionate tenderness for each other,
“ and blessed with frequent interviews.
“ We were so happy we even forgot there
“ was a possibility of being happier. But
“ the evil star that presided at my birth
“ would not leave me long in this situa-
“ tion. The father of my Caroline, for
“ that was my angel’s name, died; and
“ having seen the mutual affection be-
“ tween me and his daughter, and the
“ disadvantages which would arise to her
“ from an union between us, left her a
“ good fortune, but on condition she
“ should not marry me. Notwithstand-
“ ing this cruel usage, she (miracle of
“ goodness) grieved for a father who did
“ not deserve it from her, and I was suf-
“ ficiently employed in endeavouring to
“ comfort her, tho’ I was little able to
“ bear a circumstance which, I thought,
“ must deprive me of all my hopes; for
“ I could not think of bringing her into a
“ state where her support must end with
“ my life, which had more than the com-
“ mon chances of mortality against it.
“ But her generosity disregarded these
“ dangers:

“ dangers. She had a sum of money
“ (the legacy of an old aunt) sufficient
“ to buy an exchange of a company for
“ me. She pressed me to lay it out in
“ this manner; but I was determined
“ against making that use of it. It would,
“ indeed, have made our income more
“ tolerable, but in case of my death she
“ must have been left entirely destitute.
“ After finding that her generosity re-
“ sisted all I could say to deter her from
“ sharing the fortune of such a wretch as
“ myself, (perhaps arguments so contrary
“ to the tender sentiments of my heart
“ were not enforced in a persuasive man-
“ ner) I told her, that if she would ven-
“ ture to marry me, and to share my
“ poor commission, I should be the hap-
“ piest man on earth, and would place
“ her money in such a manner, that after
“ my death it might be some little de-
“ pendance for her; but that I absolutely
“ would neither lay it out, nor receive
“ any thing from it while I lived. She
“ seemed to consent, and we agreed to
“ relinquish the fortune her father had
“ charged with such heavy conditions,
“ and despise any treasure when put in
“ com-

“ competition with the possession of each
“ other. Various accidents, however,
“ deferred for some time the execution of
“ our purpose. Most of these delays, in-
“ deed, proceeded from her; but my
“ confidence in her truth and love was
“ such, that I could object to nothing she
“ proposed, nor harbour any suspicion of
“ a coldness in her heart. The liberty
“ of spending almost all my time with
“ her constituted a state of bliss, when
“ she gave it some interruption one day
“ by delivering to me a Captain’s com-
“ mission; in the procuring of which
“ she had laid out all her little fortune.
“ While a friend (but an injudicious one)
“ had been transacting this affair, she had,
“ on specious pretences, deferred our mar-
“ riage, to avoid my having the power
“ of preventing her from concluding it.
“ It was surprizing how well she had con-
“ cealed the knowledge of it from me.
“ I have seldom been more sensibly hurt
“ than at this discovery of what she had
“ done. She accompanied it with saying,
“ that she could not believe one who was
“ so entirely mine, whose life and every
“ thought

“ thought and action depended so much
“ on me, could ever remain in the world
“ after I had left it; and therefore she
“ had taken care that I should enjoy the
“ little fortune had given her; but if she
“ had had it in her power to make me
“ the smallest reparation for the injustice
“ of mercenary people, she should think
“ herself happy. Tho’ I was overcome
“ with her generosity, yet my concern
“ got the better of my gratitude, and the
“ first thing I said was, that she had en-
“ tailed cowardice and constant misery
“ upon me; for I should be ever wretched
“ with the fear of what would become of
“ her if I were to die. These sort of con-
“ versations, when the heart is so much
“ engaged in them as mine was, are never
“ obliterated from the memory; but I
“ find I ought often to check myself, for
“ I am very tedious in my narration. My
“ imagination was always too warm to
“ suffer me to confine myself to a few
“ principal facts, when the slightest cir-
“ cumstances were of such infinite plea-
“ sure and importance to me. However
“ I will suppress what passed between us
“ on the subject I have mentioned, tho’ a
“ thousand

“ thousand things my Caroline said crowd
“ to my remembrance, and fill me with
“ rapture. But I will not allow utter-
“ ance to one, and only tell you, in few
“ words, that immediately after we were
“ married.”

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVIII.

“ **T**HE joy (continued the poor
“ Captain) which I received from
“ the possession of my dear Caroline would
“ have recompensed me for much greater
“ evils than those I had experienced
“ in life. Every day discovered some
“ new virtue in her heart; time even
“ improved her charms; and, however
“ uncommon, what before marriage was
“ only violent love and tender esteem,
“ grew in me almost to love and adora-
“ tion. She was so good an œconomist,
“ that we lived very neatly on our small
“ income; and she appeared so entirely
“ contented, that my ambition was lost
“ in excess of happiness. I scarcely
“ thought of farther preferment, nor felt
“ the unjust preferences given to much
“ younger officers than myself. I saw
“ boys, qualified neither by age nor ex-
“ perience for the lowest posts in the
“ army, put over my head, and could
“ not find disturbance enough in my
“ mind to produce one murmur. I con-
“ sidered

“ sidered Providence had lavished its blessings on me, when it gave me my Caroline; and so considerable was my portion of happiness, that I had no title to ask for any thing more, but ought to leave to others the poor enjoyments of preferment. Nothing could tempt me out of her company, but an endeavour to get some little place for her, which might afford her a support in case the thread of my earthly felicity should be cut. For this I importuned my friends; for though I had but little confidence in them, yet this application seemed my only chance. My Success answered my faith; I got nothing done, after repeated trials, to remove this burden from my mind, which imbittered my joy by so many painful reflections it almost made me a coward. Death appeared to me so encompassed with terrors, that I have often wondered how I could hazard the meeting of it with tolerable composure in the field, when in the quiet of my own house the least disorder filled me with inexpressible agonies, from the apprehensions I had

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“ of its increase. Though I have men-
“ tioned my happiness as perfect, yet
“ it was often interrupted by being oblig-
“ ed to attend the army abroad, and
“ leave my wife to mourn my absence;
“ but then joyful returns succeeded, and
“ recompenced us for past pains. I of-
“ ten doubted whether I could be jus-
“ tified in hazarding the support of an
“ inestimable wife and several fine chil-
“ dren, in all the chances of war. It
“ seemed reasonable, that in considera-
“ tion of them I ought to have sold
“ out; but then again it was ungrateful
“ to my king, to have received his pay
“ so long, and leave his service at the
“ only time I could be useful. It was
“ true, I had suffered a great deal of ill
“ treatment; but that was because my
“ obscurity hid me from his Majesty’s
“ knowledge, and gave persons, of birth
“ still more obscure, though higher in
“ office, power to behave towards me
“ as such people will ever do to the un-
“ friended. But I had still another rea-
“ son to keep and perform the duties of
“ my commission. Such an action would
“ have branded me with the name of
“ coward,

“coward, and that I had not courage
“to bear. I could have given up my
“life for my family; but my reputa-
“tion was of more importance to me,
“and without it I should have been a
“disgrace, instead of a comfort to them.
“I should have been unworthy of my
“Caroline; nor would she, I am con-
“vinced, as much as she was a prey
“to tender fears, have consented that I
“should have brought so great a mis-
“fortune on myself, in order to remove
“the chance of one from her. It is
“easy to imagine the peace gave us
“great joy; we little foresaw the conse-
“quences. We had now nine children,
“the eldest not seventeen, the youngest
“under a year old. My health was much
“impaired by the campaigns abroad;
“but I doubted not that I should reco-
“ver it by the quiet and happy enjoy-
“ment of the company of my wife and
“children. Nor was I mistaken; by
“their kind care and attendance I was
“grown much better, when I heard the
“fatal news of the reduction of our
“regiment. I was greatly shocked at
“this unexpected blow; by this means,

“ our income was dwindled to so little, that it was insufficient for the support of so large a number. None of our children were large enough to contribute much to the general stock, by their most industrious endeavours. I was too feeble in body, and too weak in mind, to give any assistance. The most extreme poverty, had it afflicted none but myself, would have rather served as a spur than a depression to my spirits; but when I reflected on the difficulties into which I had brought my wife, it overwhelmed me with grief; nor could it be cured by the patience and cheerfulness with which she bore this misfortune. Her behaviour, by shewing her merit still more conspicuously, only heightened my regret that such virtue should suffer. As fit to struggle with bad fortune, as to grace good, she soon, by various kinds of work, found means of increasing our income, though the necessary care of so large a family would not suffer her to gain enough to enable us to continue our sons at school, which was a great mortification, as
“ we

“ we had always been desirous of giving them good education, even though
“ we should streighten ourselves for that
“ purpose, when our income was the
“ most plentiful. All the service my
“ health could permit me to be of, was
“ to turn schoolmaster to my children,
“ that they might suffer as little as possible from our poverty. Thus, by my
“ Caroline’s ingenuity and industry, we
“ were supported; nor was I ever, for
“ a moment, able to perceive that she
“ either repined or grieved at being
“ obliged to give this assistance; on the
“ contrary, she appeared to take greater
“ pleasure in it than in any amusements she had ever enjoyed. But,
“ as if Providence had some wise and
“ good purpose in afflicting us, which
“ by this means was frustrated, she
“ one day, after returning home wet
“ quite through her cloaths, from a place
“ where her business had called her,
“ was seized, as we sat at dinner, with
“ a stroke of the palsy, which at first
“ affected her head, and deprived her
“ of all her limbs. However, she recovered her senses, I may say, sooner
“ than

“ than I did mine; for the condition
“ she was in, and the occasion of it, left
“ me very little use of my reason. The
“ physician who attended her, and who
“ was my good friend, taking the great-
“ est care of her, without accepting any
“ reward but the pleasure of doing a
“ charitable action, declared that he had
“ no hopes of her recovery but from
“ the Bath-waters, and offered to send
“ with us a recommendation to one of
“ his own profession, who could well
“ supply his place in care of her. You
“ may imagine I did not hesitate a
“ moment in my resolution of sending
“ her thither, notwithstanding the bad
“ state of our circumstances. I sold,
“ directly, all the furniture of our house;
“ and every thing we had, which could
“ raise money; taking for my children
“ a little hole which would just contain
“ them; and leaving them under the
“ care of my eldest son and daughter
“ (who were more prudent than their
“ ages promised) I, with my second
“ daughter, attended my wife to Bath,
“ where I had the joy, in about two
“ months, to see her recover her health
“ and

“ and limbs, excepting her hands, which
“ still remained so lame that she could
“ not even dress herself. I never saw
“ her so much affected with any thing;
“ she would have esteemed herself hap-
“ py could she have bought the use
“ of her hand with the loss of her foot;
“ for she looked on herself as a helpless
“ burden to a distressed family. But,
“ for once, I differed much from her,
“ and rejoiced at the seat in which the
“ distemper had fixed, if it would not
“ quite leave her, as, by giving her the
“ power of using exercise, I hoped her
“ health might be preserved, which in
“ the other case could not be expected.
“ After a pretty long trial, she was
“ told there was little possibility of her
“ recovering her hand; and the weather
“ growing fine, it was imagined air might
“ be of more service to her. This, and
“ the low price of things in the coun-
“ try, made us determine to return no
“ more to London; so enquiring for the
“ cheapest country in that part of the
“ world, we removed to the borders of
“ Wales, where we hired a small house,
“ and sent for our children by the least

“ expensive conveyance. When we had
“ been there some time, I was induced
“ to return to town in order to get some
“ redress, having been informed of a
“ good opportunity of attempting it; but
“ found the hopes that had been given
“ me were very fallacious, and should
“ have soon returned, had I not been
“ seized with a malignant fever, wherein
“ I verily believe I must have perished
“ for want, had not my physician assisted
“ me still more in the capacity of a
“ friend than his profession. I am now
“ detained here by some business I am
“ transacting for him, happy to have the
“ power of giving some little token of
“ my gratitude. As my recovery is
“ yet but very imperfect, I come every
“ morning to take a walk in the fields,
“ for the benefit of the air, which I find
“ is a place much frequented likewise
“ by this lady and yourself, whom I
“ have often observed.” Here the poor
man ended his story, which had detained
us a long time, even to the encroach-
ing on an engagement of my Lord’s;
but he would not interrupt a narration
so hardly obtained. I could not forbear
asking

asking after his wife, whether the country had not done her service. He told me, she was just the same as when she went into it, but, he thanked God, in very good health; and that he had contrived to prevent her knowing of his last illness. We parted from the poor man with heavy hearts; it lowered my spirits for the whole day, and filled my Lord's thoughts for a longer time.

C H A P. XXIX.

LORD Dorchester made very diligent enquiry after our Captain, to know the reality of what he said ; for people who would not misapply their bounty must be on their guard against what they hear, lest truth should be disguised by falsehood, or clouded by partiality. His search proved to the honour of the gentleman's veracity : for he learnt every circumstance from other hands. He was then not less earnest in procuring him preferment ; and, as there were many vacancies, he got the choice of two commissions. The next time we met our Captain, my Lord desired he would come to his house that morning, and begged I would go along with him, that I might have the satisfaction of seeing how the poor man took the news of his preferment. I should unwillingly have been absent from this interview, therefore readily complied with his Lordship's request.

At the appointed hour the Captain came, and was brought up stairs to us ;
the

the surprize he had been at first thrown into, by so unexpected an invitation to the house of one of my Lord's rank, and in a manner which seemed to promise him some benefit, still was visible when he entered. My Lord asked him, if he wished so much to be again in the King's service as to like going into the West Indies. The poor man answered, "that he really did not; for his health
" was so bad he feared he should not
" be able to bear the change of climate,
" and his life was now of more importance than ever to his family,
" since his wife was intirely incapable
" of gaining the subsistence he could
" not leave her; which made him rather prefer his half-pay, than hazard
" a life, the loss of which must bring
" so much distress on those he loved
" to excess. Besides, the troops were
" to set sail so soon, that he should not
" have time to bid his family, perhaps,
" a last adieu." My Lord told him
" he was sorry to hear this was his
" way of thinking, having got a Majority for him in one of those regiments." Notwithstanding the reluctance the poor man had expressed to
going

going abroad, yet he received this news with as much gratitude as if it had been the very thing he wished. "He acknowledged his obligations to my Lord were infinite; made many exclamations on the uncommonness of his fortune; which had denied him all assistance from people who professed themselves his friends, had borne the appearance of it for a great number of years; and had even given him a right to expect they should be really such, by receiving obligations from his family; and now he had the highest benefits conferred by one intirely a stranger to him.

To this my Lord replied, that "he wished what he had done had suited his inclination and circumstances as much as he hoped it would." The Captain then endeavoured to hide the regret which filled his heart, for fear of not appearing sufficiently grateful. He told my Lord "the obligation was equal; he had supplied all his apparent wants; of the particular temper of his mind his Lordship could not be a judge; he had done all that compassion and generosity could suggest

“ suggest to make him happy; and
“ Sir,” said he, “ I hope my tears were
“ the effect of a poor despondency; your
“ goodness has raised better thoughts
“ in me; the change of climate may
“ repair my constitution, and I may, in
“ a few years, return in health to my
“ dear wife and children.” However,
so far was his heart from the cheer-
fulness he endeavoured to express, that
tears ran down his cheeks in spite of
all his efforts to restrain them; and
finding himself unable to controul emo-
tions which he thought were a kind of
ingratitude to his benefactor, he just
summoned up strength enough to return
him thanks once more, and then went
out of the room.

No sooner was the door shut than
the violence of his grief found its way,
and, with his unavailing endeavours to
conceal it, I really feared would have de-
stroyed him on the spot. We had fol-
lowed him immediately, which height-
ened his distress, as he wished to re-
main unseen. When he got into the
hall, my Lord desired him to accom-
pany us into a parlour, of which we
opened the door, and thereby presented
to

to his view his wife and children ; my Lord having sent for them all up to town, in order to give them this joyful surprize, and to have the pleasure of being witnesses to it, and to procure a meeting in case he had chosen to go to the West-Indies. Even the beloved Caroline knew not half my Lord's purpose. I was soon apprehensive we had done harm by the suddenness of this interview ; for the Captain fainted away instantly, and was so long a time before he was brought to himself, that I feared the joy had been too strong for his weak thread of life. His wife seemed greatly terrified, and her behaviour indicated the affection which every action of her life had shewn. The recovery of his senses restored the general joy ; which increased to a great degree of extacy, when my Lord informed him that he had the choice of a majority in a regiment going to the West-Indies, or to be a Captain of horse here (having received the promise of the latter after he sent for his family) which he now imagined he would prefer ; adding, " to lessen the uneasiness you seem under for your family, here are bills to the
" value

“ value of 1500l. and I will furnish for
“ you the house you shall take, let it
“ be where it will.” Their joy rose to
a height that must have been painful;
they looked on my Lord with adoration;
and gave way to raptures that would have
forced a heart the most insensible to the
sensations of others, to partake of theirs.
How much my Lord did so, was visible
in his countenance; for I never saw any
thing like the bliss expressed in it; he
seemed to feel a more solid delight than
they did; and I can easily imagine he
did so. I think their satisfaction could
scarcely exceed mine; but his must be
higher, as he had the inexpressible plea-
sure of having been the cause of their
happiness, added to that of seeing it.
Their expressions of gratitude were the
most lively that could be, and they
seemed not to know whether most to
felicitate and caress each other, or to thank
their benefactor. They did both in a
breath, and were in an agitation of joy
scarcely to be imagined, till on enu-
merating the comforts he had thus be-
stowed on them, they all melted into
tears with excess of delight; nor could
either my Lord or myself refrain from
joining

joining with them. This, in some measure composed them, and they began to take leave of us with the most ardent acknowledgements. The Captain asked my Lord pardon for the reluctance with which he received the first news of his bounty; adding, "that he hoped
" his Lordship would excuse what was
" caused by the love of his wife, if
" he considered how very irksome any
" gift would be to himself that should
" oblige him to leave his lady. For
" he could see from his behaviour, as
" well as know it from the charms nature
" had bestowed on her, that he
" was a very strong instance of conjugal
" affection." He concluded, with wishing us to live to a happy old age together; and they bid us adieu, having raised blushes in both my Lord and myself by their mistake, and mine were increased by my Lord's watching my countenance. I never before saw him do so ill natured a thing, as to make any one suffer a moment's uneasiness even from bashfulness.

I wondered why these people should imagine us married. As a man may have many friends, but can have only one wife,

wife, the probability was, in my opinion, against them; and I could no otherwise account for an error that had so disconcerted us both, than from a belief that it proceeded from the appearance of more affection in my Lord's behaviour than was usual between persons united by no dearer tie than friendship. This construction was too agreeable for me to perplex myself by seeking any other.

The happiness I had of late enjoyed, was doomed to be of short continuance. The evening of the day in which my Lord had given such felicity by his generosity to the distressed Captain and his family, I went to an assembly; at my coming from thence, my footman was not to be found, and, to avoid the trouble of returning into a crowded room, I got into my chair, and went away without him. As my chairmen were carrying me under a dead wall that was in my road, they were stopped by some men, who pulled me out of my chair, and forced me into another, which they had brought for that purpose.

The

The place being little frequented, my screams were not heard, and what little courage nature had bestowed on my chairmen, was quite overcome by the superior number of the enemy, and I was carried off without resistance.

Every step increased my terror; but yet, conscious that the shrillness of a female voice must be almost as useful in populous streets as a weapon of defence, I endeavoured to let down the windows of the chair, that I might the easier make myself heard. But this attempt I perceived in vain: I then broke a pane of glass, but instead of receiving any benefit thereby, I found that they were cased up with wood on the outside, I suppose to prevent the very thing I intended. This discovery, however, explained to me the sudden darkness which had immediately followed the putting me into the chair, and increased the terrors which the other circumstances alone would have rendered sufficient.

However, unwilling to give up the hope, of which I was thus in reason-deprived, I exerted my voice to its loudest key, flattering myself with a possibility

possibility that it might be distinguished by some chance persons passing close to the chair, whose compassion might lead them to enquire the cause. But this effort only served to spend my spirits the more entirely. The men who attended me, I imagined, kept every one else from coming within hearing, and we proceeded without molestation till we arrived at the house where we were designed to stop. The chair carried me into the hall. I was led into a dark room, and there left to my own thoughts, with subject for "meditation even to "madness."

It would be in vain, should I attempt to describe my terrors. I had heard of robberies and murders; I was not conscious of having given such offence to any one, as should incline them to perpetrate so horrid an action; but then so much ceremony seemed unnecessary for a robbery, which might have been performed with more ease and expedition. Thus I remained terrified and perplexed, fearing every thing, yet fixing upon nothing, till I was almost distracted with my apprehensions, from which I was at
last

last relieved by seeing the door open. The terrors of expectation were so increased by the approach of the danger which I feared, that, no longer able to support the agonies it raised, life forsook me, and I fainted away before I could distinguish for whom the door was opened.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXX.

MY horrors did not end with the fainting fit they had occasioned; I came to myself in apprehensions no less dreadful than if certain death had awaited me. Fear paints in very strong colours; my imagination represented to me armed men, of most tremendous mien and merciless behaviour; it cloathed them like the murderers in Macbeth, with the additional terrors they would wear when one's self was to become the victim of their cruelty.

I could not immediately venture to look up; and when I did, it was not directly that the appearance of a fine woman, richly and gaily dressed, could dispel those dreadful ideas from my brain. However, her endeavours to calm the fears she had raised, at last succeeded; and when she perceived me in some degree come to my senses, she sat down by me, with a countenance, which, under a smile, tried to conceal dejection, anger, and disdain; but so ineffectually, that at any other time every glance would
have

have discomposed and alarmed me ; but I now beheld her with pleasure ; for however terrible a woman's rage may be to a mind at ease, yet her face was more sweet than mercy and benevolence, when compared to the grim murderers my fancy had formed.

She left me some leisure to recover myself before she broke silence, during which time I recollected her to be the Marchioness of Trente, whom I had often met in my visits, though she had never condescended to speak to me, and had always cast such disdainful glances upon me, as made me not more forward to court her acquaintance than she seemed desirous of cultivating mine ; on the contrary, I used to keep at as great a distance as I could possibly, flying her as if my mind had some knowledge of the uneasiness I was to suffer from her.

At length she began thus, “ though
“ it may mortify my pride to confess my
“ love to a successful rival, yet my design requires I should inform you that
“ I have long entertained a particular
“ affection for Lord Dorchester, and
“ had once reason to believe it was
“ not without return ; though now his
“ views

“ views are more humble, and he confines his desires to objects easier obtained. I cannot longer endure to see him thus debase himself; neglecting a state of happiness that might be as lasting as his life; but as I don’t chuse to confer so great an obligation as I should by declaring my care for him, I have taken this method of consulting at once his welfare and my own.”

She then offered me an income superior to that he gave me, on condition “ I would promise never, from that hour, to see, to write, or send any verbal message to him.”

With great warmth, I told her, “ I would not enter into such an engagement, could she reward me with the possession of all Europe; no, not to save my life; because I believed I should not be able to perform it; and I would never make a promise so contrary to my happiness, as it would be bringing myself into an almost irresistible temptation to break it.”

“ Wonderfully scrupulous truly,” replied her Ladyship: “ but how ignorant soever most people may be, you find my vigilant endeavours to discover
“ you

“ you have not proved fruitless: and
“ I must tell you, it would be more
“ wise to accept the proposal I have so
“ generously made you, and to spend
“ your time in making peace with Hea-
“ ven, and rendering yourself fit for death,
“ with which our mortality threatens us
“ every hour, than persist to glory in
“ wickedness with such unparalleled im-
“ pudence.”

I was so ignorant of the Marchioness's meaning, that my answer could not be very much to the purpose; but it was spoke with that spirit which such groundless, and, to me, unaccountable abuse could not fail in raising in a disposition like mine. Its effect was natural; her temper was combustible, and, consequently, being kindled by the fire in mine, burst into flame. She rose from her chair in a violent rage, telling me, “ she would
“ no longer give the power of choice to
“ so insolent a creature, but by force
“ perform what I would not consent to;
“ for she would convey me to such a
“ distance, that I should no longer see
“ and bewitch Lord Dorchester.”

I was very sensible of the terrors of this menace: but could not stoop to
one

one whose unworthy treatment of me gave little hope of redress from her compassion: what mercy can we expect from those who are void even of justice. I told her, with an air of indignation that still rendered me more qualified to converse with her than I thought I could have been, that "I would never consent to my own unhappiness, whatever her power might inflict." Adding, that "it would not redound greatly to the honour of Lady Trente, to have made a woman unhappy who deserved no evil from her."

The Marchioness did not deign to give me any answer beside a disdainful smile; then, turning to a woman who was just come into the room, but had kept a strict silence, "Herner," said she, "take this wretch under your care. See she is well guarded, and that she has no means of corresponding with any one, either before or after she leaves this town. Watch her well on the road, but never converse with her; for I could not forgive any relation of mine who should so far debase herself."

VOL. I.

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The obsequious Heron curtsied, and promised exact obedience; and then they both departed, leaving me to my own reflections, which were not much interrupted for three days; for so long was I locked up in that room, where was no bed by whose refreshment I might alleviate either my mental or bodily uneasiness.

A little fire was afforded me, and a bare sufficiency of meagre food, little superior to bread and water. I have since had charity enough to believe her Ladyship thought fasting and mortification most salutiferous for my soul; of whose state, it seems, she had entertained no very favourable opinion. My door was never unlocked, but to let in the necessary supports of my existence, and all these offices were performed with such silent gravity, as gave a greater air of melancholy and solemnity to a situation, which, your Ladyship will allow, was in none of its circumstances very lively and agreeable.

My chief attendant was a little girl of ten or eleven years old; who whenever she came in, startled at me as if
I had

I had been a monster. If I spoke to her, she would run away, and if I offered to snatch hold of her, would scream, as if I was going to murder her. If she was obliged to pass me, she would take as large a circumference to avoid me, as if she imagined I had drawn an enchanted circle round my chair. I need not say that my mind was in a very uneasy state. I had a love for freedom, which ill-agreed with imprisonment; and I hourly repined at having exchanged the pleasures of Lord Donchester's conversation for the most odious solitude, with no object to entertain my eyes, or raise new ideas in me; denied the sound of a human voice, or any thing that might in any degree divert my thoughts from the pains of my present situation, or from the fears of what farther punishment might still be in store for me; without even the means of exposing a body fatigued with want of rest, and worn out with grief and terror. A mind less painfully affected than mine, would have found some difficulty in sleeping in an uneasy chair; to me, it was so near impossible, that I had but a few moments

respite from my anxious reflections the whole time I was there. Nothing more distressed me than the notion of my Lord's uneasiness at my sudden disappearing; and I know not how I could have been supported under all the perplexity and perturbation of my mind, had I not formed great hopes of making my escape, when time should have abated the rigour of their vigilance. I thought I had so much greater reason to be diligent in discovering the means of getting from thence, than they could have for keeping me there, that I must, at length, be able to effect it. I flattered myself, that my Lord's search after me would give me another chance. I imagined he must hear of the violence with which I had been carried away, and could not doubt but his affection would contrive to rescue me.

By these hopes I was kept from sinking into absolute despair; and the necessity of exerting some command over myself, gave me spirit to go through three days of this painful confinement with more fortitude than I could have expected. The third evening of this my enforced

enforced residence, Mrs. Herner made her appearance, and told me " we were " to go into the country the next morning." I asked " if the Marchioness " was to be of the party?" To my inexpressible satisfaction, she answered in the negative; but added, " that I was " to be guarded as carefully as if I was " under her Ladyship's eyes. Though, " perhaps, she might a little exceed " her orders in her care for my convenience; for she could not but confess " my person, and the dignity which accompanied my grief, without any mixture of rage or impatience, had prejudiced her so much in my favour, " that she was sorry she was forbid conversing with me."

I could not help thanking her for her humanity; the least instance of tenderness was now particularly dear to me. The comparison my mind drew between her and her Right Honourable cousin, represented her in most advantageous colours. I immediately conceived hopes of finding favourable opportunities for my escape, either in my journey, or in my residence with one whose compassion might

might make her less desirous of detaining me, consequently less vigilant than the Marchioness.

Before she left me, I begged that if I was still to live with, nutes she would give me a book; with which she readily complied. Her complaisance gave me no reason to admire her taste. I should have been very sorry to have had my studies long under her direction; however, simple as the book was, I preferred it to the chaos of my own mind; and was less offended at the folly of the author than I should have been at my own in so long a series of thoughts, as I was not inclined to blush for his foolishness. Before the Marchioness went to bed, she came into my dungeon, to renew the offers she had at first made, in hopes, I suppose, that my captivity had humbled me; but when she found my resolution remained unshaken, she informed me, that "I was going to a family mansion which was so very dismal and forlorn, that it would make me repent my obstinacy; and I might depend on spending my whole life there, unless I would agree to the terms proposed."

My

My answer was, that “ nothing could appear so dreadful to me as losing the conversation of Lord Dorchester, and leaving him in such uncertainty concerning the occasion of it.”

The Marchioness replied, that “ my rejecting her offer would not prevent the thing I seemed most to fear, since she would take care he should never more hear of me.” Without any further discourse, she left the room.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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